

Carnwath Primary School and Nursery Class

-Partners in Learning -

Getting your child ready to start school



Carnwath Primary School and Nursery Class

-Partnership in Education-



Starting school is a very important landmark in your children's lives (and your lives!)

This booklet provides some brief advice on ways you can help your child prepare for school.

In June you will be invited to a meeting at the school to find out some general information about starting Carnwath Primary School.

In August your child will start school for the very first time.

Then in August/September you will be invited along to a meeting at the school to find out more about Curriculum for Excellence, the school curriculum that your child will follow.

However, please do not hesitate to contact the school at any time should you have a question or concern. Parents are always welcome and we will do our best to help you.

Contact:
Pamela L. Easton, Head Teacher
Phone: 01555 840263
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Keep up to date with what's happening at Carnwath Primary School and Nursery Class
by checking our website:
<http://www.carnwath-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk>

Literacy: Talking and Listening

How can you help?

- ✓ Try as much as possible to talk face-to-face with your child in sentences
- ✓ Enjoy stories and rhymes together – nursery rhymes are ideal
- ✓ Encourage your child to make up his/her own stories about toys, pets and friends Help your child to listen and speak as part of a group of family and friends Encourage your child to ask questions and to answer them
- ✓ Ask your child's opinion about favourite things, stories or TV programmes



Literacy: Reading

How can you help?

- ✓ Read lots of stories to and with your child
- ✓ Let your child see that you enjoy reading books yourself
- ✓ Encourage your child to hold the book, turn the pages and pretend she is reading the stories using the pictures to remind your child
- ✓ Discuss the pictures with your child and show your child that the words on the page tell you about the picture.
- ✓ Talk about letters, their names and sounds
- ✓ Show your child words such as his/her name or the names of familiar things (bed, bag, car) so that your child can become familiar with them and remember them.
- ✓ Talk about letters, their names and the sounds they make (b as in bus)



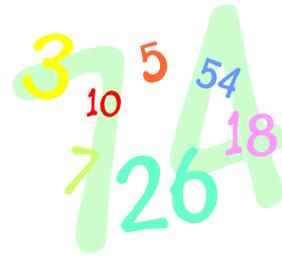
Literacy: Writing

How can you help?

- ✓ Encourage your child to write using whichever hand he/she prefers
- ✓ Let your child see that you enjoy writing (lists, letters, notes) and tell her what the words say.
- ✓ Encourage your child to make patterns and shapes in the air. This will help your child to practise the arm and hand movements needed for writing.
- ✓ Crayons and pencils should be held lightly between the first finger and thumb about 2cm from the point



Numeracy and Mathematics



How can you help?

- ✓ Sing counting songs such as 'Five currant buns in the baker's shop'
- ✓ Take your child shopping with you and let them use money
- ✓ Cook together
- ✓ Lay the table and count items as you go
- ✓ Give your child opportunities to sort and match things such as socks or buttons
- ✓ Ask your child to say which are the same and which are different
- ✓ Help your child write numbers
- ✓ Help your child recognise when things make patterns or sequences and encourage him/her to make up his/her own
- ✓ Use language such as top, bottom, big, small, next, up, down, behind when your child is getting dressed.
- ✓ Play board games with your child (snakes and ladders for example)

Personal and Social Development

How can you help?

- ✓ Encourage your child to talk when he/she is in a group
- ✓ Widen your child's circle of friends
- ✓ Encourage your child to talk and listen
- ✓ Chat to your child about how he/she feels about things that are important to him/her.
- ✓ Play lots of turn-taking and sharing games together with other children and adults. Explain that to play a game you usually need to take turns and follow instructions.
- ✓ Make sure your child can dress, use the toilet and wash hands on their own
- ✓ Talk about school lunches – perhaps have some meals in a café
- ✓ Don't distract your child when he/she is concentrating



Science and Social Studies

How can you help?

- ✓ Talk about how people grow and change – use photos
- ✓ Grow seeds and bulbs in containers or in the garden
- ✓ Develop your child's curiosity by looking at flowers, fruits, trees, and buildings.
- ✓ Encourage your child to use his/her senses – look, listen, taste, smell, feel.
- ✓ Help your child draw pictures of what he/she sees in the environment



Health and Wellbeing

How can you help?

- ✓ Provide lots of opportunities for outdoor play or indoor softplay
- ✓ Help your child balance, climb, run, play ball games
- ✓ Enjoy lots of action rhymes and join in yourself!
- ✓ Cook healthy foods together



Expressive Arts

How can you help?

- ✓ Listen to and make music
- ✓ Enjoy dressing up sessions
- ✓ Play 'let's pretend' games with your child
- ✓ Read lots of stories and talk about the characters
- ✓ Make models using junk materials and display them
- ✓ Help your child use scissors safely and correctly



Three Things are Essential to Prepare Your Child for School

1. Encouragement

Encouraging and praising your child is a great way to give him/her confidence in who he/she is and what he/she does. Encouragement will make your child more receptive to new ideas, experiences and skills. Boys need extra encouragement with learning to read so giving your son non-fiction books in particular is a really good way to help him learn.

2. Example

The best way to learn is by example and your example is the most powerful of all.

3. Environment

Provide an environment in which learning can thrive. Make sure your child has plenty of opportunities for quiet so that he/she can develop concentration.