



EARLY YEARS IN FOCUS

<http://kentcollege.com/early-years>



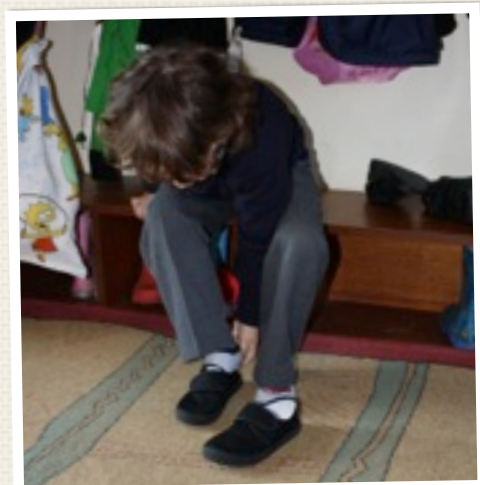
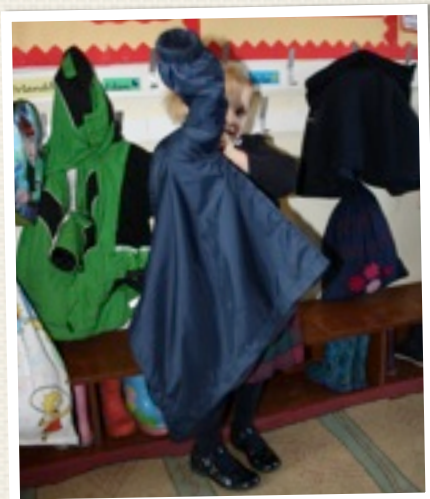
'Here I come, ready or not!'

It is very important for your child that this transition from home to school is a two-way partnership. To emphasise the two-way partnership, we are going to investigate:

Is school ready for me?

'Am I ready for school?'

When the time comes for you to start thinking about your child going to school it is important that you make plenty of visits to ensure that the school fits your child's needs. Whilst the advice you receive from other parents is also important, please remember that all children are different and visiting the school will allow you to make the important judgement of whether it suits your individual and special child.





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What to look for and questions to ask

Try to visit school when the current children are there. This will immediately give you the feeling of the atmosphere and how busy and happy the children are. It is a good idea to make an appointment to enable a member of staff to be made available to answer questions and inform you of the ethos of the school, the daily routine and what strategies are used to settle new children.

Look to see if the environment is enticing and stimulating with a wide variety of resources that cover the areas laid down in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Do children have access to both the inside and outside environment? Have children got ownership of their coat peg and tray that are clearly named?

At Kent College Nursery, Infant and Junior School we pride ourselves on teaching children as individuals. We have the resources and ratios of qualified experienced staff to enable us to do that by using a variety of teaching methods to suit all children. For example, to enable children to learn in different ways we use a variety of teaching strategies, activities and resources, including:

*Visual aids (V) such as books, pictures and the interactive whiteboard,

*Auditory aids (A) for children who learn by listening and

*Kinaesthetic aids (K) for children who need to investigate and touch materials to inspire their learning.

This type of teaching is often referred to by teachers as VAK.

As your visit is coming to an end, ask yourself:

Was the school welcoming?

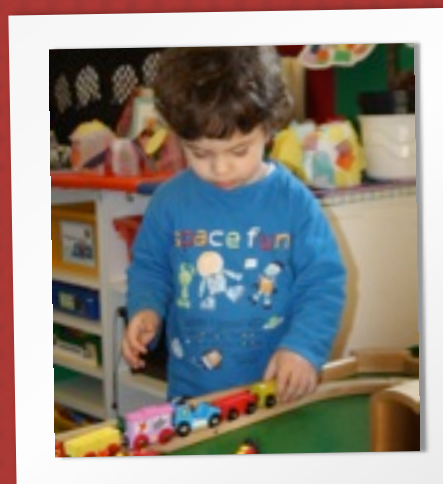
Are there effective home to school partnerships in place?

Has another time been arranged for you to gather further information and discuss the uniform?

Have your questions been fully answered? If not, be sure to make a follow-up appointment.

Am I Ready for School?

This is a worry for many parents. Children have a tremendous capacity to learn in the first five years of their lives. If we stop and think about it, they learn most of their skills in those first years and spend the rest of their life perfecting them. Children are more likely to cope with learning about the world around them when they are actively supported by their families.





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During these formative years, communication is the key. By talking, explaining, singing and reading, you are unknowingly getting your child ready for school. Playing games, taking turns and sharing in the family home will help with their social skills when mixing with their peer group for the first time.

Along with children being able to follow instructions, they also need to be able to make choices independently. Both of these skills will help them to follow the daily routine and choose activities of their liking during child initiated time.

Encourage your child to find their coat and shoes at home and show them how to put them on by themselves. This is an extremely helpful skill to have when in school. It also enables children to be independent and get out to play with their friends much more quickly.

There are many books on the market that are good for sharing with your child about starting school. Also, when out walking or riding in the car, it is a good idea to point out the school which will prompt further informal discussion.

It is up to individual schools and their facilities as to whether children need to be completely toilet trained before entering the Nursery class. Please don't assume, always ask us. Once again, we treat children as individuals. We always suggest you supply a bag of clothes for those little accidents! A pair of wellingtons that can be left in school are useful too. These allow children to be able to investigate our idyllic environment in all weathers.

When the first day arrives for your child to start school, please leave enough time to get prepared in the mornings. Children need a long time to get ready and seem to take even longer if they are under pressure.

We hope you have found this article useful. We will continue to explore all aspects involved in making your child's transition into nursery or school happy and positive, through our future articles. Feel free to comment, or ask any questions about our articles and information through the feedback button on your email page. Alternatively do come to visit and chat with us in school. We look forward to meeting with you and your little one.

STAY CALM AND GOOD LUCK.

(Article written by Beryl Garratt)

OPEN ATHLETICS EVENTS

AN INTRODUCTION TO EARLY YEARS AND SCHOOL ATHLETICS.

SATURDAY 7TH & 21ST MAY 10:00

FRIDAY 13TH MAY 16:30 FOLLOWED BY A BBQ

COME AND JOIN US ON THE SPORTS FIELD