

Throughout Reception learning is often based around play. This means that activities such as arts and crafts or playing outdoors can all prepare your child for starting school.

Try to include your child in all aspects of each activity to help give it some structure. For example, if you do some painting, ask them to help you fetch the paper and paints and see if they can put on their own apron. Alternatively, if they are playing with toys, make sure they tidy them away when they have finished.

### Understanding the World

1. Have a picnic with the birds- prepare a bird feast with fruits and seeds.
2. Feel the wild between your toes- encourage your child to squelch their toes in grass, sand or mud.
3. Listen for wild sounds- use a blindfold to focus on what your child can hear.



### Maths

4. Use the stairs to increase the times that your child sees numbers. As your child passes them, ask them to name the number.
5. Go on a shape hunt around your home and garden, encourage your child to spot the shapes and have a go at drawing them as well.
6. Choose a number for the week e.g. 4. Encourage your child to look out for this number all of the time. Find four toys, spoons etc. Make patterns, such as four forks, four spoons, four forks, four spoons... Practise writing the number 4. Choose a different number each week.



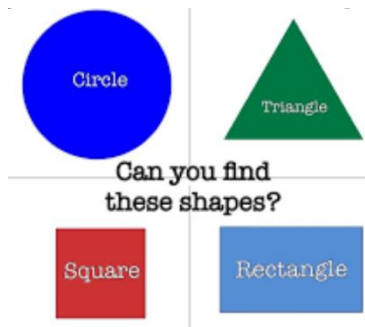
### Reading and Writing

7. Collect some leaves and petals out of the garden and write the letters of your child's name on them. Can they sequence the letters to create their name?
8. Upside down writing- tape some paper to the underside of a chair or low table and pop some crayons on the floor. Lie down and draw.
9. Share a range of simple poetry, song, fiction and non-fiction books with your child.



### Expressive Art and Design

10. Create a piece of artwork outside using leaves, pinecones, feathers and twigs.
11. Draw a self-portrait using different mark making materials such as paint, chalk or crayons.
12. Encourage role play- you might like to try school roleplay. Ask your child to gather up their favourite toys and sit them in a circle. They can then pick a topic to teach the toys, such as shapes, colours or counting.



### Other ways you can prepare your child for starting school

Let your child get themselves ready in the morning.

Encourage good hygiene skills including washing hands.

Practise walking or driving to school.

Look at the school's website together and talk about the pictures.