



Talbot Primary School



Getting Ready for School:

Helping your child at home

Welcome to Talbot Primary School

When your child first starts school, you may have many questions and concerns about preparing them for this milestone. We hope that this booklet will give you all the information you may need. Please feel free at any time to speak to us if you have any problems or items you would like to discuss.

Telephone – 01202 513981

Email – school@talbot.poole.sch.uk

Starting School - *How to make things easier*

It will be easier for your child if they:

- ✓ Can recognise their name and begin to copy write it
- ✓ Hang up their coat
- ✓ Put on and take off the clothes they wear to school
- ✓ Do up zips, buttons and trainers
- ✓ Pull up their sleeves to do something messy
- ✓ Wash and dry their hands properly
- ✓ Ask for the toilet properly, using the correct words, use and flush the toilet independently, clean themselves and wash their hands

Please note there is no expectation for your child to start school with all the skills illustrated in this booklet. this is for guidance only.

Before your child starts school...

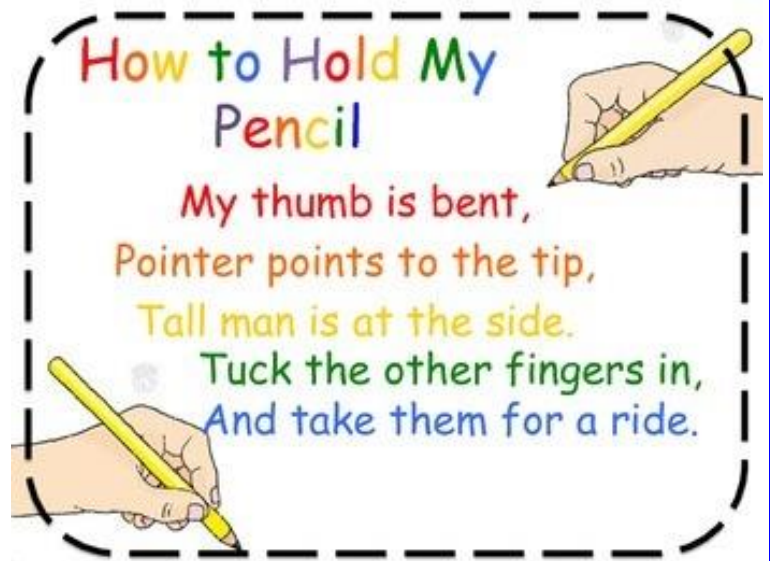
Starting to write

When teaching your child to write, it is important to use capital letters in the correct place (at the beginning of first names, surnames, place names etc.) It can be very difficult if a child has been shown to write in capital letters only.

This is the font we use for handwriting at Talbot

Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Ff
Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj	Kk	Ll
Mm	Nn	Oo	Pp	Qq	Rr
Ss	Tt	Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx
Yy	Zz				

How to hold a pencil correctly?

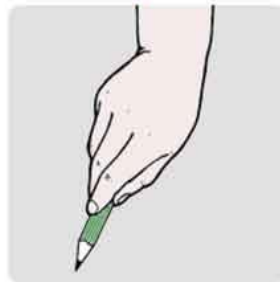


Development of the pencil grip through the early years:



1 year to 18mths

Cylindrical Grip



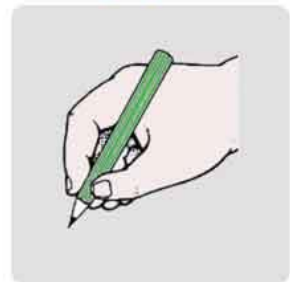
2 to 3 years

Digital Grasp



3.5 to 4 years

Modified Tripod Grasp



4.5 to 7 years

Tripod Grasp

Ways to help your child with their pencil grip

- Fastening buttons, zips and laces
- Messy play
- Playdough
- Painting and drawing
- Mark making/treasure hunting/castle building in sand
- Posting/sorting games/Lego
- Toy screwdrivers and screws or nuts and bolts

If you google 'pincer grip' or 'pencil grip' activities, you will find many more ideas



Talk to your child!

Speaking to your child on a daily basis has a huge impact on their development, language and communication skills.

The average child hears 1,251 words per hour which transpires into 26 million words heard by the age of 4.

A child who is spoken to less than the average child hears around 600 words per hour which is 13 million words by the age of 4. This is a clear drop in a child's exposure to vocabulary and indicates the importance of talking to your child.

If you are able to talk to your child more than the average amount you could be exposing your child to an extra 900 words per hour which results in being exposed to over 45 million words by the age of 4.

This will further increase your child's communication skills in addition to their language development.

Ways you can boost your child's communication skills

The more interactive conversation and play your child is involved in, the more they learn. Reading books, singing, playing word games, and simply talking to your child will increase their vocabulary while providing increased opportunities to develop listening skills.

Why not:

- Talk about day to day activities.
- Talk with your child about the books you read together.
- Talk with your child about the TV programs and videos you watch together.
- Keep books, magazines, and other reading material where your child can reach them without help.
- Help your child create their own "This Is Me" or "This Is Our Family" album with photographs or mementos.
- Talk to your child while playing alongside them (building a tall tower or using the doll's house for example)
- Watch the videos on our website and talk through them together to prepare your child for school



Starting to Read – *How to help your child at home*

If you read just **one** book a day to your child, they will have been read 1825 books by their 5th birthday.

Every Day Counts.

Every Book Counts.



Sharing Books – We teach phonics to help the children learn to read and write and in order to do this successfully they need to love books! The best way to help your child is to read as many books as possible in both English and your child's home language. Read anything that your child is interested in (including magazines, menus etc.) You don't have to read all (or any) of the words each time. Remember to use silly voices, make sound effects, pull faces, act things out, talk about what you can see, talk about what you both think and feel and have fun! Encourage your child to tell you what they have done at school today. Sharing new songs and rhymes is something you can easily do when you are busy doing something else e.g. cooking, cleaning, driving the car.

Give everything a name – build your child's vocabulary in both English and their home language by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that aeroplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

General tips to support reading

Once is never enough! – Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their school reading scheme book. Re reading helps children read more quickly and accurately.

Dig deep – Ask children questions about the story you've just read. "Why do you think that happened?" "Did you like this book? Why?"

Thinking time – When your child is trying to sound out unfamiliar words, give them time to do so. Remind them to look closely at the letters in the word.



Say it again – Once they have sounded out an unfamiliar word, encourage them to re-read that word or sentence.

Bedtime reading – Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Children enjoy this special time with their parents.

Things you need to do before your child starts school...

Administration

Before your child starts school, complete all of the relevant paperwork, as once they have started in Reception this will be our first means to contact you. If you move house or change telephone numbers, please ensure that we have an up to date address and mobile telephone numbers for your child at all times. We also need an additional contact number in case we cannot reach you.

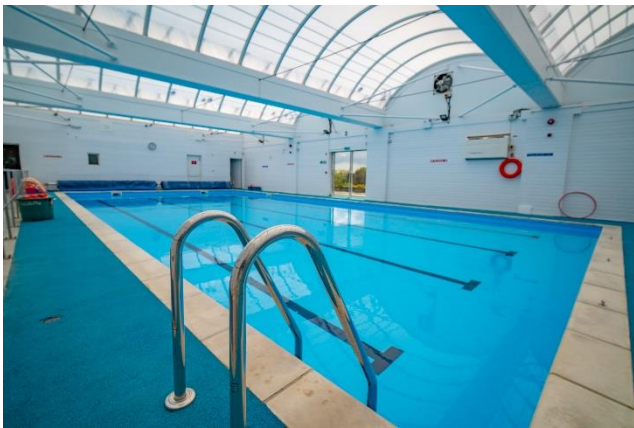
Medical

Please advise us if your child has any allergies or health concerns.

The Local Authority does not permit us to administer medicine in school unless prescribed by a doctor. We will hold asthma inhalers and ask you to complete a form.

Advice about your child's health can be obtained from your health visitor or the school nurse who can be contacted through the school.

If an injury occurs that appears to require medical attention other than a plaster or cold compress, parents will be contacted as soon as possible.



Pupil Premium Grant

If you are on low income or in receipt of benefits, your child may be entitled to the pupil premium grant, which will support them in their education whilst at school. Contact the school and they will help you through this process and clarify if your child has an entitlement. If in doubt, ring us anyway.

Special Educational Needs

If you have any concerns regarding your child's stage of development or they are already having special educational support through an EHCP or SEND plan at their nursery, contact our SENCO who will ensure every preparation is made to accommodate and include your child appropriately.

Similarly, if you have concerns about their emotional wellbeing, or you are being supported by social care, contact our pastoral team who will support you and your child.

When your child starts school...

Attendance and Punctuality

It is vital that your child attends school at the correct time every day unless they are unwell or there is another valid reason for absence. Holidays will not be authorised in line with the Government initiative to reduce holiday absence during term times. Persistent lateness will mean that your child is missing out on important teaching and learning opportunities.

Please be prompt to collect your child at the end of the day. Children can become very anxious if they feel they have been 'forgotten'. If you are unavoidably delayed, please telephone the school so that we can reassure your child until you arrive. If your child is not collected after school and every attempt has been made to contact emergency numbers, after an hour, social services will be contacted.

Absences

The school should be notified of all absences. Please telephone or leave a message and provide a letter on return to school.

Please inform us of any contagious diseases e.g. chicken pox or measles. We would also like to be advised of any outbreaks of head lice so that we can advise other parents to check their child's hair.

After sickness and/or diarrhoea – your child should be kept at home for a clear 48 hours once they are able to eat again.

Toys

Please do not allow your child to bring toys from home. They invariably get lost or broken as other children want to share them and use them and this is more upsetting for your child than leaving them safely at home.

Good Behaviour and Discipline

Good behaviour is necessary for effective teaching and learning to take place. Children are expected to behave in a sensible manner both to themselves and others – showing courtesy, respect and consideration for others at all times. Our children are expected to cooperate with their teachers and other children and cause no danger to themselves or others.

Each class has a class charter linked to their sunshine, rainbow and thinking cloud. Children are rewarded with a sticker if they demonstrate good behaviour and their photo is put on the star reward chart.

The school has an anti-bullying policy and does not tolerate any kind of physical, verbal or racist bullying.

We hope you have found this booklet useful and we look forward to welcoming you to Talbot Primary School. If you need any further information, please contact the school office on (01202) 513981.



Looking forward to seeing you soon - The Reception Team