

THE ROYAL SCHOOL

RECEPTION READY?

*Find out how you can support your
child with a #StrongStart.*



United Learning
The best in everyone™



Research suggests a #StrongStart sets four and five year-olds on the path to a childhood of successful learning, and beyond.

An exceptional early education is the foundation for future success.

How quickly time flies!

It must feel like yesterday your baby was born and in September, your little one is starting school. Some of you will be feeling excited, others perhaps worried. Either way, what lies ahead is an exciting and truly magical time.

As your child begins the first steps to independence, we can help provide a strong, positive start to his/her educational journey. Harnessing children's natural curiosity, prioritising communication, emotional stability and thirst for discovery, there is never a dull day at The Royal School.

A strong sense of belonging gives children the confidence to have a go, make mistakes, adapt and innovate, celebrate successes, both their own and those of others. All journeys have twists and turns, including your child's education. However, a bumpy start is not an option!

This brochure includes tips on how you can assist your child in getting ready for school so that s/he can skip through those school doors on the first day of school and the only tears will be ones of pride....yours!

Together, we can give him/her the tools, skills and experience to navigate the formative years that are critical for the future. Let's get started.....



Kerrie Daunter
Head of The Royal Prep School



Children do not learn by osmosis; it takes highly skilled, empathetic teachers who place emphasis on how and why they learn, not just what they learn.

STEP 1

Encourage Independence



- Allow time for your child to practise putting on their own shoes and clothes
- Think about clothes and shoes that will be easier to manage independently
- Let your child practise putting on their uniform
- Aim for them to get dressed faster: make it a game
- Talk to your child about washing and drying hands after using the toilet
- Encourage your child to manage their own self-care when using the toilet
- Model a positive 'I can...!' approach
- Give positive praise for trying



STEP 2

Stimulate Curiosity



- Buy and explore new foods together
- Find fun activities to get hands and fingers moving, e.g. play dough
- Model curiosity by thinking out loud (perhaps not every thought!)
- Engage in 'What if?' and 'I wonder' exploratory activities
- Let your child take things apart to see how they fit together
- Harness the 'Why?' by finding out the answers together
- Give your child open-ended toys e.g. lego, a variety of materials, without instruction
- Follow your child's personal interests and delve deeper



STEP 3

Boost Communication



- Switch off technology for a while
- Model saying words correctly e.g. 'because' not 'cos'
- Encourage your child to speak in full sentences e.g. 'I have finished' not 'Done!'
- Allow your child to respond to questions and greetings in their own time
- Model active listening, by have 'mindful' conversations without distractions
- Praise your child for following instructions
- Talk to your child about how you have spent your day
- Expand their vocabulary by using adjectives to describe objects



STEP 4

Build Relationships



- Encourage turn-taking through games
- Allow your child to lose against you occasionally
- Praise your child for being patient
- Let your child take photographs of family and friends who are special to them
- Arrange playdates with other children of their own age
- Talk openly about feelings - yours and your child's
- Make time for a bit of silliness - cuddle, laugh, dance...
- Remember you are your child's greatest role-model and biggest hero!



STEP 5

Gain Confidence



- Encourage your child to have a go at new experiences
- Tell your child it is okay to ask for help when they need it
- Avoid saying 'Be careful' as taking measured risks are important
- Provide your child with choices so they can sometimes take a lead in making decisions
- Let them help with jobs around the house and in the garden
- Put their prized squiggles on display in the kitchen
- Praise your child for showing courage and resilience
- Talk really positively about school

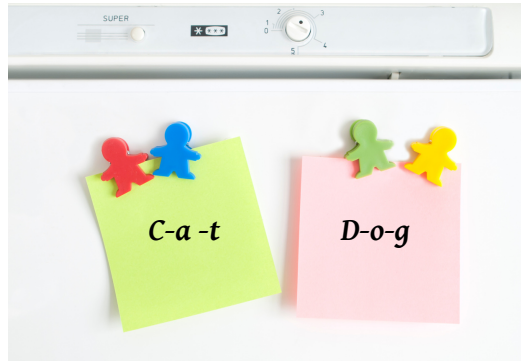


STEP 6

Develop Literacy



- Let your child climb trees and monkey bars at the park - these build strong arm muscles essential for writing
- Put your child in charge of using pegs to hang out the washing - this builds strong fingers, also essential for writing
- Sing songs, play rhyming games, read stories daily and embrace the retelling of the old favourite!
- Encourage your child to 'read' stories to you, by telling the story using the pictures
- Play 'I spy' using the sound a letter makes rather than the name of the letter
- Leave simple, short, notes as a surprise for your child to find - they will soon begin to recognise repeated words
- Model writing shopping lists using pen and paper and let your child join in
- Model reading - incorporate some quiet independent reading time



STEP 7

Promote Mathematics



- Play board games together to practise counting
- Allow your child to make collections (conkers, acorns, whatever interests them) and use to sort and count
- Point out numbers in the environment
- When possible, allow your child to handle and play with coins and let them help you pay
- Use language such as 'more', 'less', 'longer', 'shorter' when appropriate
- Bake a cake or make a pizza together - count the spoons of ingredients until the correct amount is met
- Help them notice patterns in the environment eg. leaves, chopped tree trunks, brickwork, pebbles
- Talk to your child about what is coming up next to help them sequence event





"We cannot recommend The Royal School enough if you are looking for a safe haven for your children where they will be nurtured and encouraged to shine every single day."



Our Nursery and Prep School are located in a 23 acre site in Hindhead, just 15 miles south of Guildford near the A3.

Playing fields, sports pitches, woodland, outdoor play equipment and gardens ensure the children have a variety of areas to play and learn.

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

Book a Talk & Tour with our Head of Prep, Mrs Kerrie Daunter and give your child the #StrongStart s/he deserves.

 www.royal-school.org/strongstart

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The Royal
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