

MYTHS VS FACTS



Myth

Children need to know the alphabet and letter names before starting school



Fact

Environmental print, the letters and words children encounter in everyday life (e.g. signs, labels, logos) helps children make connections between what they read and the world around them



Myth

Children need to be able to write their name independently before starting school



Fact

Children learn that you can communicate through writing, and that marks have meaning, by watching you write. Give children lots of opportunities to explore mark making in different ways. If your child is able to recognise their name this will help them when they start school (e.g. finding their coat peg) but they do not have to be able to write it independently



Myth

Children need to know letter sounds and be able to blend the sounds to read words independently before starting school



Fact

It helps if children are able to develop listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment. Listen out for the sounds that are all around us (e.g. environmental sounds such as animals and vehicles) or try adding sound effects to stories



Myth

Teachers expect all children to be at the same level when they start school



Fact

All children develop in different ways and development is not a linear or automatic process. Teachers recognise that every child is unique with their own strengths and talents, and support your child to acquire new skills and knowledge as they progress on their learning journey



If you have any concerns about your child starting school speak to your Nursery, Pre-school, Childminder, Health Visitor or local Family Hub



MYTHS vs FACTS



Myth

Children need to be able to count to 20 and beyond before they start school



Fact

Making counting a natural part of your day (e.g. counting the stairs as you go up and down) will help your child become familiar with number sequences. Teachers will continue to support this in school



Myth

Children need to be able to recognise numbers before they start school



Fact

Numbers need to be real and meaningful to young children, so it's important to show them numbers in context. Children are surrounded by numbers every day; from simple counting in nursery rhymes to the numbers on houses or passing buses.



Myth

Children's learning begins once they start school



Fact

Learning and development start from the moment your child is born. Every experience, every interaction with your child is helping them to make sense of the world around them. Chat, play and read together



Myth

Children need to be able to tie shoes laces so they can put their shoes on independently



Fact

Learning to tie shoe laces is a skill that can take a long time to master. Support your child to gain confidence and independence by providing shoes with velcro or other similar fastenings



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MYTHS vs FACTS



NO

Myth

When children start school they will be expected to sit for long periods of time



Fact

Young children have short attention spans, they need lots of opportunities to move and engage in various activities. Children learn through play and they are active learners



YES



NO

Myth

School is formal and is very different than Nursery



Fact

Your child will still be learning through play in the Reception class. They will be busy exploring, discovering, and listening to stories. They will be getting used to the school environment and learning to concentrate and listen to their teacher



YES



NO

Myth

Parents will be expected to come into school to give emotional support to their child



Fact

There's lots parents can do to support their child with the transition to school, including discussing the school's routine, and talking positively about the experience. Teachers will support your child throughout the day



YES



NO

Myth

Parents will receive photographs daily and a detailed handover at the end of the school day



Fact

Many schools communicate with parents via an online platform (e.g. Tapestry or Class Dojo) to share photographs and messages. Teachers need to safely dismiss all the children at the end of the school day so may not be available straight away for a chat. If you have concerns arrange to speak to the teacher



YES



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