

Our Approach

At Busy Bees Preschool, we recognise that starting school is an important milestone for children and their families. We aim to make this transition a positive, happy and well-supported experience, helping every child feel confident, secure and ready for their next adventure. We work in partnership with parents and carers, receiving schools and other professionals, where appropriate, to support each child's individual needs.

Preparing for School

Throughout their time at Busy Bees, children develop the skills and confidence that will help them as they move on to school. Through play, everyday routines and planned activities, we support:

- **Independence:** managing belongings, putting on coats and shoes, using the toilet and washing hands.
- **Communication:** expressing needs, sharing ideas, listening and asking for help.
- **Social skills:** building friendships, taking turns, sharing and playing alongside others.
- **Emotional wellbeing:** developing confidence, resilience and ways to manage feelings.
- **Early learning:** developing curiosity and skills in early reading, writing, mathematics and problem-solving.
- **Physical development:** building coordination and confidence through active play.

We recognise that every child develops at their own pace. School readiness is about helping children build the foundations they need, not expecting them to be able to do everything independently before they leave preschool.

Working with Parents and Carers

We keep parents and carers informed about their child's progress and encourage open conversations about starting school. We welcome information about the school your child will attend so that we can help prepare them for this change.

We understand that children and families may have different feelings about starting school. We are always happy to discuss concerns, offer reassurance and suggest ways to support your child at home.

Working with Schools

Where possible, we work with receiving schools to help children experience a smooth transition. This may include transition activities, visits or meetings with school staff, where available.

With appropriate permissions and in line with data protection requirements, we share relevant information about children's development, strengths, interests and any support they may need. This helps the receiving school build on what your child already knows and provide continuity in their learning and care.

Supporting Children with SEND or Additional Needs

Some children may benefit from extra preparation and support when moving to school. Our SENCO works with families, key persons, receiving schools and relevant professionals, where appropriate, to plan individual transition arrangements.

Depending on the child's needs, this may include additional visits, meetings, photographs, visual supports, one-page profiles or other strategies to help them feel familiar and secure.

We aim to ensure every child feels included, understood and supported throughout the transition.

Supporting Children and Families

We may use stories, role play, conversations, photographs and school-related activities to help children understand what starting school might be like. We encourage children to talk about their feelings, ask questions and develop confidence in their next steps.

Parents and carers are welcome to speak to their child's key person or the Preschool Manager if they have any questions or concerns before or after their child starts school.

Last reviewed: September 2026

Next review: September 2027