

Scoil Mhuire

Shankill, Dublin

Idir na sléibhte agus an fharraige.



Information for Incoming Junior Infants

2020

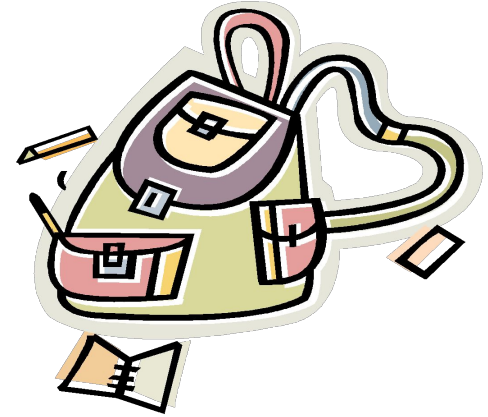


Preparation before school starts



- Be positive and calm in your attitude towards school
- For most of us our first day at school is our earliest memory(lets make it a good one!)
- Tell him about school beforehand in a casual way
- Involve them in preparations for school - choosing a bag/coat
- Encourage your child to do little practical tasks by themselves
- Independent children are confident and generally more happy and ready to learn
- Remember, they are moving from a small, more intimate group to one that is larger
- Practising simple routines will reduce anxiety for you and your child

Practice



- Putting on and taking off coat
- Opening and closing school bag
- Recognising and taking care of own belongings by name or appearance (often similar coats and bags) LABEL everything
- Tidying up after play at home/respecting and taking care of books, uniform
- Socialisation - Arrange opportunities for play with other children/visit the playground. Can they play simple games with other children, share and take turns?

Toilet Training/Hygiene

- Your child should be fully toilet trained and able to use the bathroom independently
- Children should know the procedure around the toilet. They should know how to wipe, flush & wash.
- Hygiene is extremely important as they share toys, crayons , paintbrushes etc..
- Provide them with opportunities to use 'cubicles' when your out and about
- Practice at home with uniform on
 - Accidents at school - spare change of clothing
 - Using a handkerchief or tissue



Think about;

School Bags:

Zip bags are easiest to open and close. Clips & Drawstrings are difficult to manage

Coats:

Zips easier than buttons to fasten

Shoes:

Velcro shoes or buckles are best

Boys trousers:

Elasticated waistlines.

Stationary is provided, (pencil cases and colours not needed)

Lunches:

• Provided by Carombola.

• Any additional items should be

easy to eat and not too much e.g peel oranges, berries, bananas, cheese strings, yoghurts.

Spoons for yoghurts.

Easy to open containers

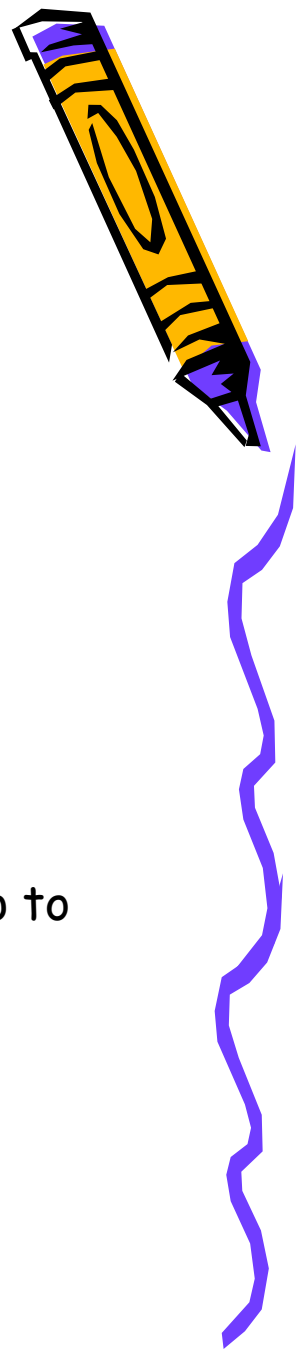




Is your
child ready
for school?



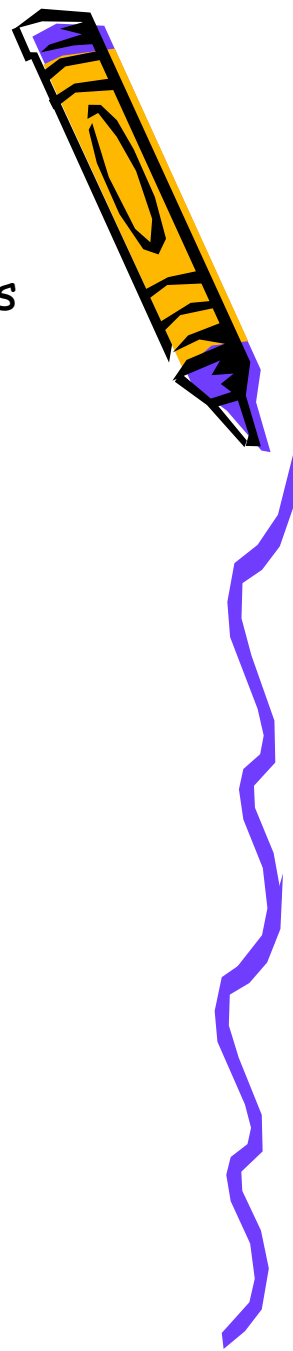
Is your child ready for school?



- Social & Emotional maturity is more important than Academic ability (Ability to cope in different social situations and emotional steadiness)
- Every child is different but in general maturity is directly linked to age
- Remember, they are moving from a small, more intimate group to one that is larger



Is your child ready for school ?.....



- In a typical class there could be an age difference of 18 months
- The older child has over 20 % more 'life experience' and more language in order to communicate
- The younger child is always competing with children who are older than them. As they mature, the older child also matures, so they have difficulty catching up
- Consider the long term implications - 12 going to secondary school, 17 going to college ...



Being 'five or nearly five'

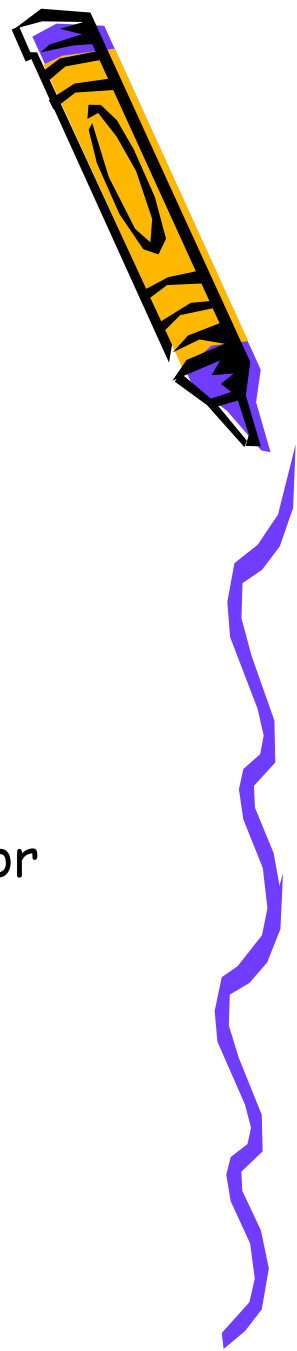
- Your child is bigger than when they were four and being bigger nearly always helps !!!

They generally have -

- Greater language usage, allowing them to be better understood by their teacher and friends
- Developed better hand-eye co-ordination and motor skills - opening schoolbags, beakers, holding a pencil etc
- Greater emotional steadiness and concentration



Younger children (Generally) -



- Have a shorter concentration span
- Slower to complete tasks
- Aren't as competent at expressing their thoughts
- Sometimes difficult to understand & be understood
- Get upset more easily/become overwhelmed easily
- Get tired quickly
- Find it difficult to negotiate
- They can be easily dominated and will often accept minor roles in games



Our first year in school

Mainly about settling in, relating to others, making friends, feeling happy and gradually getting used to the routine of the school.

On the learning side the emphasis is on getting children ready for learning by:

- Developing oral language and expression
- Sharpening their senses, especially seeing, hearing and touching
- Developing physical co-ordination especially of hand and fingers
- Extending their concentration span and getting them to listen attentively
- Learning through play (Aistear)
- Co-operating with the teacher and other children
- Performing tasks by themselves
- Working and sharing with others
- Teaching each child to accept the general order which is necessary for the class to work well





Oral Language

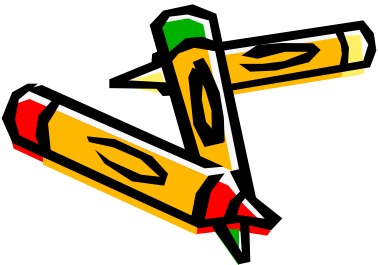
The language curriculum emphasises developing listening and speaking skills in preparation for beginning of reading and writing

It is essential for the social development of children. Children need language to perform common social functions- introducing oneself to others, greeting others and saying goodbye, asking and answering questions, giving and receiving messages, interacting with others and negotiating

It is also necessary for their emotional development. They need language to express their thoughts and feelings

Your child will need to be able to articulate and communicate their needs and opinions in Junior infants or they will grow very frustrated

Less screen time more play and talk time



What do children need to know Generally it is more important to attend to emotional and social aspects first but here are some tips

To develop oral language listening and speaking skills

- Talk to your child
- Read to your child
- Play with your child

To develop motor skills

- Manipulating pliable materials such as playdough and marla. (Pushing, pulling & rolling)
- Scribbling/colouring and tracing using thick and thin pencils, chawks, crayons
- Buy your child a scissors and start cutting

To develop problem solving and turn taking

- Make lots of puzzles
- Play games like concentration, snap and bingo
- (orchard games available in tesco and smyths)



ABC

Jolly Phonics



- Children encounter letters in a novel and interesting way.
- Letter of the week
- Song and story to accompany each letter
- Learn the names of letters and sounds the letters make.
- Identify items, words and names starting with letters and sounds.
- Recognise letters in books, magazines, signs and all around
- learn to form the letters correctly in a sensory way before writing
- Letter station work





Letter Stations



Ready, Set, Go-Maths



- Early maths programme for Junior and Senior Infants
- Children engage in practical maths activities using concrete materials
- Focus on mathematical language-more, less, bigger, smaller, long, short, first, next, last etc. Use this language at home

Activities include:

- Counting and recognition-recognising numbers 1-5
rhythm counting, number lines, number fans and dice games
- Sorting and classifying objects-by size, colour, shape etc.
- Making Patterns



Comparing sets-according to length, quantity etc.

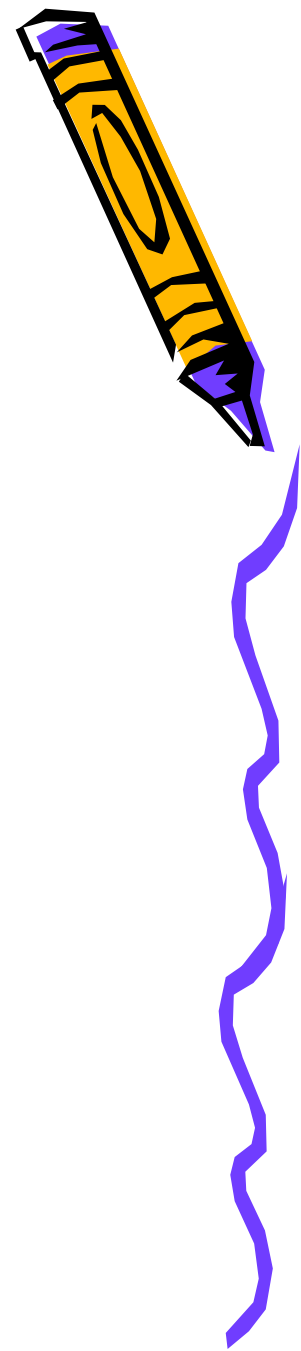
Ordering sets-according to length, height etc.

Number rhymes-5 Little Ducks etc.



Ready, Set, Go-Maths





- Aistear-meaning 'Journey' is the curriculum framework for 0-6 year olds
- Places a huge emphasis on play as 'much of children's early learning and development takes place through play and hands on experiences.'
- Aistear hour of play each day
- Focus on developing children's oral language-discussion before during and after play
- Children play in groups and do a different activity every week

New theme explored every two weeks

- Stations-pretend play, physical play, creative play, language play and games with rules





First Day

- Have everything ready the night before-uniform, snack etc.
- If you're feeling nervous or upset, try not to show it! Be as casual as possible
- Settle them at a desk with the other children . Once they are settled, let them know you will collect them later and make your getaway with out delay
- If they are upset, use distraction e.g start playing with the toys on their desk, encourage them to play with their friends etc.

• Don't be tempted to peek in the window/door

Treat yourself-you've made it!

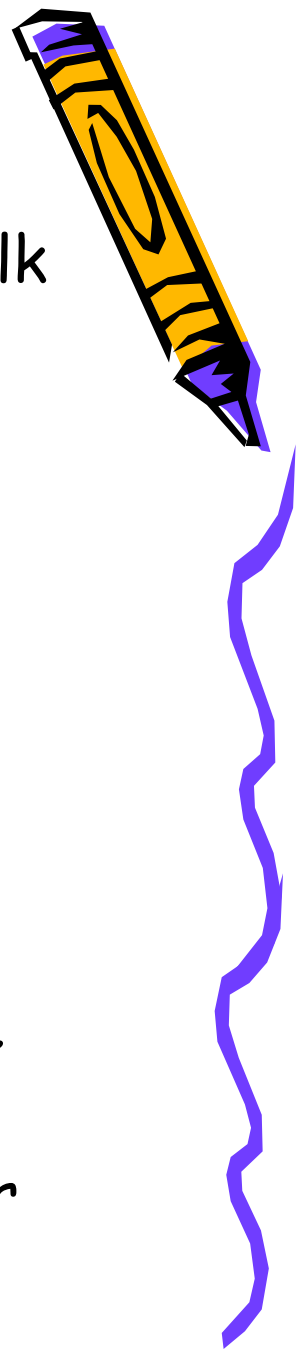


A Typical day in the life of a Junior Infant

- Infant day - 8:50- 1.30
- Aistear playtime
- Carpet time-prayers, news, rolla etc.
- Phonics-Letter work
- Small break-11:00-11.10
- Maths
- Music/Art/Drama etc.
- Big lunch- 12:30-1:00
- Story time
- Home time



Punctuality and attendance




Morning

- Children should be in their line before bell and walk in with their class
- Children should take responsibility for their own belongings in the morning
- Children can be intimidated walking into a class already in progress
- Children who are late miss out on activities
- It interrupts the class

Home time

- Teachers will bring children to the door-please be patient!

 Children become anxious if they see other children being collected & they are left behind

Bedtime



- Early to bed.... 12 hours sleep!
- Tired children -
- Get upset easily
 - Are irritable
 - Have a shorter concentration span

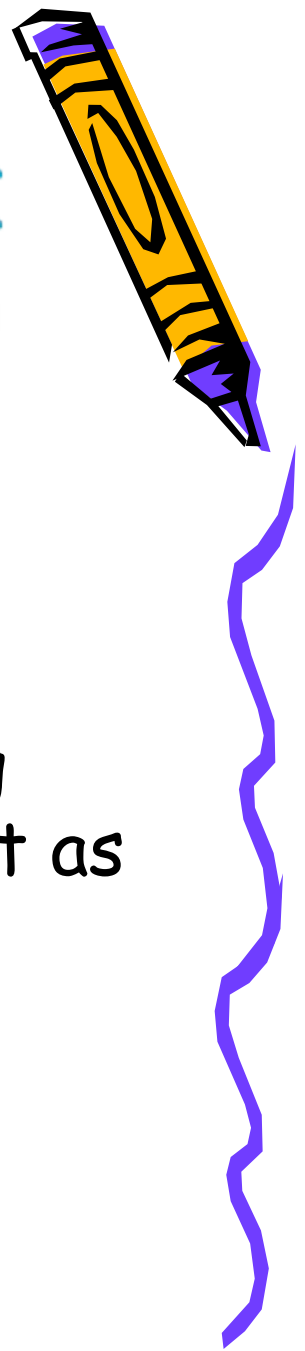
Attendance

- Children should not attend school if they are unwell-if in doubt, call the school secretary.
- You must inform your child's Teacher in writing if your child is absent. Include reason and date.
- There are 183 school days in the school year. If your child misses 20 days or more, the National Educational Welfare Board will be informed.





Homework



- Will start after the first few weeks
- Homework given out on Tuesdays, to be returned on Fridays
- Find a quiet place with no distractions
- Encourage your child to look after their homework folder and keep it in their bag
- Oral language activities just as important as written work/colouring
- Should take around **10 - 15** minutes
 - If you or your child is becoming frustrated-**stop!**





Homework



- Sound Copy-letter of the week
- Rhyme of the week
- Name writing practice
- Games and activities



Parent-Teacher Communications



- Communication between parents and teachers is very important
- Please make an appointment-happy to meet parents after 1.30pm
- Mornings are not convenient to speak with teachers
- [Class Dojo](#)
- Home School Liaison Teacher-Mary O'Sullivan



Finally....

- Treat it as a natural step in your child's life
- See you in September!



Sharing Important Information



Share any important information that may impact your child's transition to school.

If you communicate any needs or issues that your child might have we can prepare in advance.

We can make sure the correct supports are in place to make the move easier and less stressful.

Consider telling us if your child has:

- Any special needs
- Speech and language difficulties
- Developmental issues picked up by the HSE nurse
- A recent change in family circumstances (bereavement, new baby, separation, parent back to work, moving house)
- Allergies or health problems



Information you communicate will be respected and confidential and will benefit your child





QUESTIONS?

Please send these to school e-mail and we will
get back to you asap

Please send the mail as FAO Junior Infant Teachers

scoilmhuireshankill@gmail.com

Thank you.

Jennifer O'Connor

Karen Doyle and Aimee Friel

