

Starting Reception – further information

Best Start in Life

This website has lots of information for families, including information about [preparing for school](#).

Starting Reception

The [Starting Reception](#) definition has been developed to provide a clear, consistent understanding of the skills that we should support children to develop to support them in starting school. Sharing this information with families, alongside the [activity ideas for families](#), now will enable families to build confidence for themselves and their child over the coming year.

Developing your provision

If you are interested in developing your provision for children moving on to school using the Starting Reception resources, please email your local setting support inbox and your EYCA's can let you know about support available to you.

Supporting transitions

Settings can find additional guidance to support [transitions](#) for children on our [website](#). This includes details and booking information for our Transition Events taking place in April and May 2027.

Toothbrushing

The Starting Reception website has information for families around the importance of toothbrushing. You may wish to share [The Children's Toothbrushing Guide](#).

Toilet training

As part of the wider Best Start in Life campaign, the [Toilet Training Talks campaign](#) launched on Monday 10 August 2026 to support parents with children starting school this September. Recognising that toilet training can be one of the biggest challenges for families, the campaign provides reassurance, support and practical advice for parents to help their children build confidence and independence before their first day.

The campaign directs parents to the new [NHS Best Start in Life 'Potty Training' webpage](#), with practical advice covering everything from recognising when a child needs the toilet to managing clothing, wiping, flushing and washing hands.

At its heart is a short film, '[Toilet Training Talks](#)', featuring Reception teacher Georgia Lucas and TV doctor Dr Emily MacDonagh. Filmed in a primary school toilet, the light-hearted film shares expert advice and reassures parents that progress takes patience and every child develops at their own pace.

You can listen to a recorded webinar with guidance from health professionals and school leaders linked to the potty training guidance [here](#). Current guidance is that children should have opportunities to sit on a potty from the time that they can sit up and that most children should be toilet trained between 18 and 30 months.

You may also like to share [The Potty Training Guide](#) with families from the [Starting Reception](#) website.

CBeebies Parenting

The [CBeebies Parenting](#) website also includes information for parents and carers to support pre-school children as they prepare to start their adventure in early years settings or school as well as:

- [skills for starting school](#)
- [introducing the potty](#)
- [toilet independence](#)
- [taking turns and sharing](#)
- [helping with shyness around starting school](#)
- [managing separation anxiety](#)

There is a special [CBeebies Parenting episode](#) exploring how confidence, communication, emotional reassurance and growing independence can all help children settle into a new environment.