



Believe, Learn, Grow

Lydiard Millicent CE Primary

Ready for School Booklet 2025-2026

Preparing your child for school in EYFS

Starting school can be an exciting yet daunting prospect for children and parents alike, with so much information and routines to take on board. With this in mind, we try and answer some of the questions that both you and your child may have, before the school year begins. We have tried to include all the relevant information we think you will need, but if there is anything you feel we haven't covered, please let us know.

Here at Lydiard Millicent CE Primary, we appreciate that Early Years education is vitally important to prepare your child in their journey of life-long learning. We understand that children will come to us with vastly different experiences, abilities and understanding of the world unique to themselves. As a result, we aim to offer a high standard of Early Years education that takes into account the individual needs and nature of these young children and builds upon what they already know and can do.

It will make being at school so much easier and happier if they are independent and can do many things for themselves.

What would it be helpful for your child to be able to do?

- Dress and undress themselves
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there
- Tidy up after him/herself
- Recognise their own name
- Feed themselves with cutlery appropriately
- Share toys and equipment
- Hold a pencil
- Sing some nursery rhymes
- Practise counting to 10
- Listen well and follow simple instructions
- Sit still and listen
- Be aware of other children
- Understand the word stop and that such a phrase might be used to prevent danger
- Ask an adult for things they need
- Take off their coat and put on shoes
- Talk in sentences
- Open and enjoy a book

How can you help your child prepare for school?

- Encourage them to be as independent as possible even if it takes them longer to get ready.
- Get them used to a routine of reasonably early to bed and up early enough to be ready for school.
- Be positive about school and show it to them as a positive experience.

Transition from pre-school/carers to the school

Please complete the 'All About Me' form and return to the school office before your child starts in September. The EYFS teachers will arrange a 1:1 meeting with all parents/carers to find out more information about your child and their experiences.

The entry into EYFS in September will be staggered to ensure the children are comfortable with the setting and routines. If your child is not ready to begin school full-time by the arranged date, the EYFS teachers will liaise with you to form an individual plan.

Areas of the EYFS Foundation Stage Curriculum

During the day the children will take part in activities covering all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, sometimes individually, in small groups or as a whole class.

Play is at the forefront of the Early Years Curriculum. Through play your child will be encouraged to learn new skills and practise skills they have already acquired. Play is important for children's all round physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

You can help your child to learn from their play by:

- Encouraging them to play well with friends and, where applicable, siblings too.
- Playing with your child and encouraging them to listen to instructions and suggestions.
- Encouraging them to share ideas with you and ask questions.
- Finding a time in each day when you and your child/children can share an activity together without interruption as this will help to improve their concentration.

The Early Year Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into the following areas of learning:

Prime Areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



What will your child do in EYFS?

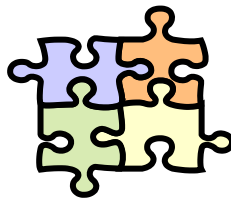
The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum at Lydiard Millicent is a book led curriculum, where children's experiences are centred around fiction and non-fiction books, as well as short animations. Through this immersion in books, children are able to develop all areas of the curriculum and staff carefully plan each learning opportunity to allow the children to achieve their best. At the beginning of each term, you will receive an overview detailing the things your child will be learning throughout the term. If you are at all unsure, please ask a member of the Early Years Team.

Play

Children learn best through play and through activities that are well planned and are linked to their interests. During each day, the children will undertake teacher led and child-initiated play.

What might my child play with during the day?

- Role-play with resources such as the puppet theatre, small world, dressing up and home corner; which is related to a theme.
- Physical play with resources such as trikes, outdoor construction, puzzles, pegboards, obstacle courses, sand and water.
- Play in the outdoor classroom area and the school's woodland area.
- Creative play including painting, cutting and sticking, colouring and modelling with play dough.
- Constructive play using a variety of 3D equipment, e.g. Lego, Duplo or mobilo.
- Team play with a range of collaborative activities such as team games, paired activities and group challenges.
- Board games and puzzles with small groups of children.



Communication and Language Development

Each day your child will have many experiences linked to Communication and Language. This includes the areas of speaking, listening, attention and understanding as described below.

Children are encouraged daily to develop their speaking, listening, attention and understanding skills. This will happen through daily interactions with each other and with the adults in the classroom, in a variety of individual, group and whole class situations. This will include listening and responding to stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and asking and answering questions as well as using language in imaginative and role play situations.

Through quality back and forth interactions and frequent reading opportunities, early years staff support children in using and embedding new vocabulary and language structures.



How can you support your child's communication and language development?

- Listen to your child, and encourage them to listen and respond to you.
- Give them opportunities to talk in front of different people; this may include family and friends.
- Encourage your child to speak clearly so that others can understand them.
- Encourage your child to ask questions, to explain and to describe.
- Read frequently to your child and talk about what has been read.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Every day at school your child will have numerous opportunities to develop their Personal, Social and Emotional skills. Your child will be encouraged to become more independent and will be shown how to do things for themselves or with help from a friend. They will be supported in maintaining attention, concentration and sitting quietly whilst on the carpet in order to listen to adults or other children.

Your child will have lots of opportunities to make friends with their peers and older children and to develop their social skills both inside and outside of the classroom, learning how to co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. Your child will develop their self-confidence and self-esteem through taking part in everyday classroom activities, collective worship, receiving praise and celebrating their individuality.

They will be supported to manage their emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct their attention as necessary.

How can you support your child's Personal, Social and Emotional Development?

- Provide lots of opportunities for your child to mix and learn to co-operate with other children. Encourage them to establish good relationships with other children and adults, to take turns and to share fairly.
- Encourage them to use the toilet correctly and with independence. Please train your child to always flush the toilet and to wash and dry their hands after use.
- Encourage your child to collect and be responsible for their own belongings. Please make sure that all clothes and belongings are clearly marked with your child's name. This helps us to return things quickly if they are found and saves a lot of upset for the children when something goes missing!
- Encourage them to learn to put on and take off their coats, jumpers, cardigans and shoes independently.



Physical Development

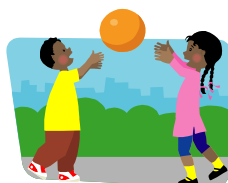
Your child will be encouraged through a variety of activities to develop their fine and gross motor control. Daily, your child will experience action songs and rhymes and activities such as dough disco, drawing, puzzles, threading and the use of small tools. This will develop their fine motor control and precision, which is vital for early writing.

The children are also given many opportunities to play in our outside area. Here they can use the trikes and scooters, build using a variety of construction equipment and make up their own games with friends. This helps develop their strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility.

Your child will participate in PE lessons every week in the school hall or outside. This incorporates Dance, Gymnastics and Games. They will develop increasing control over their bodies, recognise their own and others' personal space and learn how exercise can help keep their bodies healthy.

How can you support your child's physical development?

- Help them to develop independence in dressing and undressing themselves. Praise their efforts and help to make it easier for them by buying clothes and shoes, which are child friendly, e.g. shoes and PE trainers with Velcro rather than laces, polo shirts rather than long sleeved shirts or blouses.
- Teach them to use a knife and fork and encourage them to cut up their own food. If your child is having a packed lunch, help them to practise opening the box and drinking bottle or carton.
- Encourage them to learn to put on and take off their coats, jumpers and/or cardigans independently.
- Give them opportunities to develop their fine and gross motor skills. Have fun with your child by:
 - ❖ Sharing songs and rhymes
 - ❖ Doing puzzles, threading, using play dough, painting and drawing
 - ❖ Throwing, catching and kicking a ball
 - ❖ Riding a bike
 - ❖ Running, jumping, hopping, skipping and balancing



Literacy

The book led curriculum at Lydiard Millicent supports children to develop a life-long love of reading. Each day your child will have many experiences linked to books, which will develop their language comprehension, and in turn support and inspire their writing.

Reading

Throughout the school week there are many opportunities for your child to share books. Books are read together in the classroom, and one is often shared during Collective Worship. In school we have a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books as well as rhymes and poems.

Children will take part in daily phonics sessions to develop their word reading skills. At Lydiard Millicent, we use Little Wandle for Letters and Sounds Revised as our phonics scheme. Not long after starting school, your child will be given a 'Sounds I am learning' sheet to take home. This will support you in helping your child to practise the grapheme phoneme correspondences (GPCs) they are learning in school. Children also learn 'tricky words' throughout their EYFS year and these will also be sent home during the Autumn Term.

Each week, your child will also experience three small group reading sessions to support their development. These will focus upon word reading and decoding skills, the development of prosody and expression as well as comprehension skills. The children will bring home their school reading book to read to you as well as a sharing book to enjoy together. Parents are asked to record their home reading in their child's reading record.

How can you support your child's reading?

- Encourage your child to read and recognise words around their environment, e.g. street names, family names and words from books.
- Share books with your child, either their own or from a library, and let them see you reading. Encourage your child to retell the story, or use the pictures to make up their own story.
- Share and enjoy different kinds of books with your child, e.g. picture books, information books, leaflets, comics and stories.
- Show your child how a book works, where it starts and how to turn the pages.
- Be a good reading role model for your child.



Writing

Your child will be encouraged to write using their knowledge of grapheme phoneme correspondences (GPCs) and their ability to hear and record phonemes (sounds) in words. They will also be taught to write recognisable letters, which are correctly formed. Before long, their writing will be able to be read and understood by others!

Writing and letter formation is heavily dependent upon fine motor control and children will experience different media in order to help develop these skills. This includes forming letters in the sand, flour, paint, and using play dough. Pencil control is extremely important and your child will have lots of experience of holding and using pencils. Making sure your child has opportunities to do any activities which use hands, arms and shoulders will strengthen the necessary muscles and help fine motor control.

Children will write for many different purposes in school, ranging from activities related to book stimuli and solving problems within their play to dictations within phonics sessions.



How can you support your child's writing?

- Encourage them to make marks and do their own 'writing', while holding the pencil correctly. ***Please come and ask if you are unsure of how they should hold their pencil.*** Finger writing in a tray of sand, flour or paint is good for developing writing skills and is also great fun!
- Help them to write their own name. ***Please use a capital letter at the beginning and lower-case letters for the rest of their name.*** A way of encouraging your child to write their name could be sending a card to a friend or relative!
- Let them see you writing. Children are always curious as to what adults are doing and by seeing you writing they will begin to realise its importance in everyday life. They could help you by writing the shopping list!

Mathematics

Throughout the day the children will regularly experience Mathematics although they may not realise it! In addition to this there are regular Mathematics sessions that include some or all of the following:

- Counting
- Sorting
- Ordering
- Matching
- Calculating
- Problem-solving

Children will be encouraged, and given opportunities, to develop their understanding of number, calculations and shape, space and measures within a broad range of contexts including play, rhymes, songs, stories and many more.

It is only after lots of practical activities that children can begin to understand the concepts, be able to explain what they are doing and apply the concept in a variety of situations. Once this has been firmly consolidated the children will begin to record their understanding in a more formal way.



How can you help your child?

- Sing number songs or rhymes together.
- Count together, e.g. when setting the table, how many forks do we need? How many apples shall we buy this week? How many sweets have you got?
- Encourage your child to recognise numerals, e.g. what number is on our house?
- Compare different lengths, heights and weights, e.g. Mummy is taller than you, who are you taller than?
- Give your child experience of money and coins, e.g. helping them to count their pennies or letting them help you to pay at the shops.
- Put events in sequence, e.g. I undress, I have a bath, I go to bed.
- Look out for different shapes in the environment and name and describe them.
- Play games together such as snakes and ladders and dominoes. This will help your child to instantly recognise representations of numbers on dice and dominoes.

Above all, be a positive role model and encourage your child to enjoy Mathematics. After all, maths is fun!

Understanding the World

Understanding the World incorporates the National Curriculum areas of Science, Geography, History and Computing. Your child will undertake a variety of activities in order to develop a greater understanding of the world around them.

Examples of activities your child will experience include labelling a body, going for walks to find out about the local area, making a house from construction materials and planting seeds. These activities are based around books and animations, linked to a termly topic. The topics include, 'Look at me!', 'Look Up!' and 'Go Green!'.



How can you support your child's understanding of the world?

- Have fun with your child finding out about the world around them.
- Look at and talk about the things they find interesting, e.g. the weather, shadows, seasons.
- Talk about how things work, e.g. the wheels on a car, how bricks fit together.
- Observe and talk about old and new things.
- Talk about different buildings and places.

Expressive Arts and Design

Your child will be given opportunities to develop their creative skills through a variety of different media and tools. These include painting, drawing with pencils, crayons and pastels, printing with sponges and leaves, making models with boxes and other recyclable materials and modelling using clay and play dough. We also sing nursery rhymes, action rhymes and songs daily, and we also have our own selection of musical instruments within the classroom. In Collective Worship your child will experience singing with a larger group of children and adults.

How can you support your child's Creative Development?

- Sing with your child or do action rhymes. You could even make musical instruments with different packaging around the house!
- Listen and respond to music by clapping, dancing or beating a drum. Give your child chances to experience drawing, painting, and making things using a variety of materials and tools. Allow them to do what they want no matter what the end product looks like!