

Ready to Learn, Ready for Life. Going to School in Warwickshire-

Planning for families of children with SEND



When you know where your child is going to school, meet and share all the information you can about what your child likes, what your child can do, what they find hard and the ways you know help. Think about going to school in their classroom, breaktimes, lunchtimes, assemblies, trips and coming home at the end of the day. Ask questions! Some things will be the same as all the other children, but some things will need to be different. The more you prepare the easier it will be to make it work for you, your child, and the school.



Buy uniform which allows your child to be as independent as possible. You can use school uniform shops, supermarkets or specialist providers.

If your child is very small some uniform manufacturers will do extra small clothes, or even extra small school badges for you to sew onto your child's clothes.

Some supermarkets do 'easy dressing' ranges.

Where children need specific things try and find some which match school colours if possible, so your child fits in. For example, waterproof backed bandanas in the school colour may be better than bibs.

Ask in plenty of time if your child will need something specific, like wellies for Forest school.

If your child struggles with new clothes let them practice wearing them, particularly shoes.

Make sure everything including socks are labelled.

Talk with school about how much spare clothing they need in school



Your child may need extra visits to school before they go. This might be to see how they can access the building; it might be to help them feel more confident, it might be to make key relationships with the adults. Work with the school to create an individual plan which works for everyone.



Make sure before your child starts there is a toileting plan in place so that they can be as independent as possible. You may need to work with the Health Visitor, CCN, the physio, the OT, or the specialist teacher to plan how your child will toilet in school:

Will staff need training, for example to catheterise?

Will your child need a toileting seat, a different height sink, a wider cubicle, a cubicle away from hand dryers, or perhaps their own space which is just for them.

Talk about what makes them feel comfortable and safe being changed and what helps them be calm and doing as much as they can themselves.

Talk to school about how you will send pads and wipes to school, maybe daily, weekly or every few weeks.



If your child has health care needs, they will require a care plan and staff in school may need training. This might be for creams, for medication, for feeding, for seizures, for allergic reactions. It may be oxygen. This plan will be written by, or with, your child's health professionals and will talk about what happens day to day and what happens in an emergency.

If your child need medication, talk with school about how you will send that to school, where it will be kept and how you will know if it is running low.



Help your child be as ready for school as possible. Give them time with other children. Work on developing a morning routine to get up and out of the house. Work on a sleep routine. Ask them to help at home, for example putting something away when they have played with it. Read stories to help them get ready for school. Play simple games. Talk to nursery or school and get ideas of how to help make sure your child is Ready to Learn and Ready for Life.