

If you are looking for new ideas of how you can promote your child's learning and development your local Children's Centre can help with this. We have a wide range of activities; stay and play sessions, arts and crafts, baby yoga, musical sessions, learning through play sessions, free early education places and family Support.

Visit our website at

www.nehalifaxchildrenscentres.org.uk

Follow us on face book at 

Sure Start Children's Centres North & East Halifax

Or feel free to ring or just call in to one of your local Children's Centres below

Ash Green Children's Centre
01422 243941



Illingworth Community Children's Centre
01422 243633



Creations Community Children's Centre
01422 434006



Northowram and Shelf Children's Centre
01422 434006



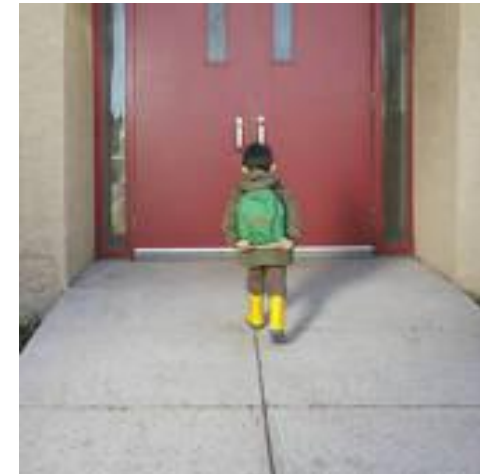
Kevin Pearce Children's Centre
01422 252209



Innovations Children's Centre
01422 248222



Starting school is a big step for a child



Help your child get prepared for starting school as early as possible

Sure Start Children's Centres
North and East Halifax

Developed with Primary Schools, Parents/carers, Children and Community Partners within North & East Halifax

In the UK children start formal school at the age of 5 years old when they enter Reception class. As a parent/carer it is important to ensure your child has the 'best start' so in order to do this it is key to start children's learning and development from birth and support their learning as early as possible.

There are many skills children will need for starting school, listed below are a few of them as suggested by local parents and professionals in North and East Halifax

Can your child...

Child comment: You need to use a knife and fork for your dinner

- ❖ Play, share, take turns and adapt to doing things differently?
- ❖ Cope with change and deal with challenges
- ❖ Dress themselves (i.e put on own coat, put on shoes they can fasten e.g Velcro ones), pull down and up their pants, wipe their own bottom and wash their hands
- ❖ Speak to other adults/children and express their needs in an appropriate manner
- ❖ Use a knife and fork and drink from a cup
- ❖ Run, jump, catch, balance and dance
- ❖ Hold a pencil
- ❖ Follow a simple instruction
- ❖ Listen to stories and learn rhymes, recognise and name colours?
- ❖ Recognise numbers and begin counting

Child comment: You have to wear a badge on your uniform

Child comment: You don't need a dummy when you go to school

All of these skills can be introduced to children at an early age some examples of how you can encourage these would be:

- ❖ Singing to/talking to your child from birth or attending baby sign sessions
- ❖ Taking your child to local groups in your community e.g. parent and toddler groups, baby groups etc: your local Children's Centre will offer these or will be able to tell you where they are in your area.
- ❖ Spending quality time interacting with your child, why not turn off the TV and do something together (you could ask your local Children's Centre what they have got on?)
- ❖ Taking advantage of the local library membership and share books at bedtime
- ❖ Visit local parks or play in your garden to encourage physical skills like jumping, running, catching etc
- ❖ At mealtimes encourage children to sit at the table and use cutlery to eat with i.e. spoons with a baby and progress onto a knife and fork
- ❖ Allow your child to hold and use pencils at an early age
- ❖ Be creative with your child: how about playing with water in the bath, or trying corn flour and water in a tray? There are plenty of safe food items you could encourage your child to explore that you will already have in your kitchen?
- ❖ Ask your local Children's Centre for ideas (see contact details on the back)

Child comment: You will have to put your shoes on by yourself