

Starting school

Starting school is a big event! Many are excited, both students, parents and teachers. There is a lot new to happen. Students meet new people, both adults and children. They will learn a lot of new things, but they will also be allowed to show everything they already know.



Some advice for starting school from the first grade teacher

- Talk about school at home, and continue to do so throughout the year. Feel free to ask the child what they did at school that day. Most of the time you will get answers about what game they played in the free time, but this conversation is very valuable. It sends signals to the child that you as an adult have an interest in school and that school is important.
- Do you have a concern, but think it is too small to contact the teacher? Always contact the teacher. If you have a concern or are just wondering about something, get in touch. A good collaboration between parents and teacher is great for everyone.
- Read aloud at home. Reading a little every day for the child has enormous value. It helps by increasing vocabulary, comprehension, it builds a positive association with reading and it is a pleasant time to spend with the child. Throughout the summer, it can be fun to do a reading challenge. For example, you could try reading a new book every day. Or read in a new place every day. It's amazing how exciting it is to be read to when you are sitting in a whole new place. How about under the living room table? On a bench in a park? Or read with all the teddy bears in bed.

- I am often asked how much the child should be able to do before they start school. Some parents are worried that they cannot write their name or that they do not recognize numbers. We learn this at school. First grade is a great bridge between kindergarten and starting education. During the first year, students learn all the letters, become familiar with the numbers from 0 - 20 and so much more! There are other things that are far more important to focus on before starting school. Can the child find and open the lunch box himself? Tying shoelaces? How about managing yourself on the toilet? These are things that are super important to practice before school starts.
- Learning to read and write is one of the first things you focus on in first grade and it's okay to wait until then. Some children show a lot of interest in letters when they go to kindergarten in the last year, so if you are going to practice letters, it is incredibly important to focus on letter sounds - and not the names of the letters. This will make it much easier for your child to learn to read and write. For example, the letter m: use the sound of the letter, not just "em".
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Socially

We have a strong focus on the social throughout the school year, but especially in 1st grade. We build a good social environment through free play and teacher-led activities. Other things like outdoor school and gym classes are also a great arena where the social is in extra focus.

Something that can be a bit challenging at the very beginning of 1st grade is waiting for a turn. Unlike from kindergarten and home, students cannot speak freely at any time. You raise a hand and wait for your turn. This can be new and experienced a little difficult at first.

Feel free to talk about it at home and practice waiting your turn by, for example, playing games together.



What will the start of first grade look like at the Norwegian School in London?

At the beginning of the first day of school, the parents will have the opportunity to join the students in the classroom for a short walk. The teacher will welcome everyone, tell the students a little about what the day will be like and then the parents will have an opportunity to take a picture of their child before they go down for coffee in the “peisestua”.

The first weeks are filled with new experiences for the students. They are already starting to learn two letters the first week, they work with numbers and quantities, they bring home books that will be used for some homework and many letters are sent home that you parents must read, sign and send back to the school.

The main focus in the first weeks is on learning routines and getting to know each other. We will do this through play and experiences together.

Parents will also be invited to have a friendly “get to know each other” conversation with the form teacher where you can talk about your children and ask questions. A parent meeting will also be held during the first weeks.

