

Big School Adventure at Nära Nurseries

We are excited to introduce The Big School Adventure, a fun and purposeful 12-week programme designed to support your child's transition from pre-school to reception class.

Over the summer term, your child will take part in six, projects, each running for two weeks. These carefully designed activities will help children build confidence, develop independence, and become familiar with key routines and expectations they'll experience at school.

From managing their belongings to understanding feelings, recognising numbers to making new friends, our goal is to ensure every child feels ready, resilient, and excited for their next big step!

What will my child learn?

Each project links to the EYFS seven areas of learning, providing well-rounded support as children prepare for school life. Activities are playful, hands-on, and based around real experiences that children will soon encounter.



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The Six Fortnightly Focus Projects

1. Big Hearts, Bright Minds

Focus: Feelings, emotions, toileting, eating and drinking, understanding their own needs.

Children learn to name and talk about their feelings, manage self-care routines, and gain confidence in looking after themselves - key for a smooth start to school life.

At home: Encourage independence with dressing, toileting, and using a lunchbox or water bottle.

2. People, Places and Possibilities

Focus: Travel to school, school routines, and understanding different adult roles.

Children explore how they'll get to school, what their day might look like, and who will be there to help them—making the unknown feel familiar and exciting.

At home: Talk about the school journey, visit the school gates, or share stories about your own school days.

3. Maths Magic

Focus: Early maths, number confidence, problem-solving.

From counting and measuring to shape hunts and pattern play, children develop a love for numbers and build the foundations for mathematical thinking.

At home: Count steps, lay the table with the right number of plates, or play with puzzles and blocks.

4. Little Linguists

Focus: Early literacy, mark-making, phonics awareness, speaking and listening.

Children practise storytelling, writing their name, recognising sounds, and building vocabulary through songs, stories, and games.

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Our Play and Say activities are a core part of this focus, helping children tune into the sounds around them and begin to connect these with letters - essential building blocks for confident early writing and reading.

At home: Read daily, encourage mark-making with chalk or pens, and talk about the sounds in everyday words.

5. Active Adventures

Focus: Uniforms, dressing skills, PE, and physical independence.

Through dressing races, movement games and getting-to-know-my-clothes activities, children build fine and gross motor skills—and confidence with dressing for school.

At home: Practise zipping coats, putting on shoes, and changing into PE-style clothes independently.

6. Imagine and Create

Focus: Music, movement, creativity, and preparing for the “Next Stop: Big School!” celebration.

Children will design props and costumes, rehearse dances or songs, and reflect on their journey with pride as they prepare for a joyful end-of-term party.

At home: Talk about what your child is excited about at school and help them practise any lines, songs, or dances.

How can I support my child?

- Celebrate independence – Let your child try things on their own first.
- Talk positively about school – Build excitement and answer their questions.
- Stick to routines – Consistent bedtime, dressing and morning routines help children feel more secure.
- Stay connected – We’ll share regular updates and ways to get involved.

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You may also find this parent guide [Getting Ready for School: Building Confidence](#), which has been produced by the NDNA, helpful.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey. Together, let's help your child take their next big step with confidence, curiosity, and joy!

If you have any questions or would like ideas for supporting your child at home, please speak to a member of our team.

