

# Starting Reception



## Case study: Embedding 'Starting Reception' across Kemnal Academy Trust (TKAT)

### Overview

The Kemnal Academy Trust (TKAT) supports 45 schools across the UK, including 29 primary schools and 20 nurseries. Like many schools, TKAT has seen a decline in communication and language outcomes among its most vulnerable pupils, with a notable drop in speaking skills. The Trust has also found that parents are less likely to engage with school readiness discussions and sessions, especially face-to-face, and are less likely to value the importance of being in school and being ready for school.



### The Approach

TKAT have developed a new strategy to address school readiness, which focusses on engaging with parents over a longer period of time. As part of that strategy they have used the different sections within the Starting Reception definition to create a series of postcards featuring skills and activities that children can work on at home.

The postcards have been printed and delivered to all schools in the trust, along with a letter from their school inviting them to bring the postcards in on specific dates. Children earn stickers for attempting each skill/activity on the postcards.

The approach has dual benefits: the families and children work on developing key skills at home, and the schools gain insight into each child's skills and level of family engagement.

### Next steps

Though still in the early stages, TKAT hopes to see better school readiness and engagement from parents over time.