

School Readiness

Parents and carers are a child's greatest teacher and role model.

Children learn and play by being creative, being active and answering and asking questions about the world around them. All children develop at their own rate and all children are different. It is important to remember one child may have only just turned four whilst their class mate is about to turn five. This alone means there can be a range of abilities.

As long as parents, carers and practitioners are supporting children with looking after themselves and helping to develop their sense of self, then this will build a solid foundation and the other building blocks will come in time.

We have put together some helpful ideas and tips to help your child to be ready for school in September.

Ready to separate...

I will be ready for school when...	How can you support me with being ready for school...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can feel secure and separate from my parent or main carer• I can say goodbye to you when I have a grown up I know to help me	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give me the opportunity to go to groups and meet other people• Give me experiences of being left with other adults and family members• Take me to children's centre groups, pre-school or nursery• Give me the chance to talk to new grown-ups when you are there

Ready to communicate...

I will be ready for school when...	How can you support me with being ready for school...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can express myself if I need something • I can communicate my own ideas, needs and feelings • I make observations, comments and ask questions • I can use words about things that interest me • I can talk about lots of different things; what I've done, who I'm with or where I'm going • I use objects or gestures to help me explain what I am talking about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give me the time to join in when sharing a book • Talk to me about the sounds I hear when we go to the shops or the park • Give me the opportunity to make choices about what I might like to eat or play

Ready to listen...

I will be ready for school when...	How can you support me with being ready for school...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am interested in my own play and the world around me • I can follow developmentally appropriate instructions • I join in with singing songs and rhymes • I join in with my favourite bits of the story • You ask me to do something like 'come and put your coat on' I will do it if I am not too busy playing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give me experiences of sharing books and singing rhymes • Give me the opportunity to play listening games • Give me time to respond to a question

Ready to socialise...

I will be ready for school when...	How can you support me with being ready for school...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can interact in an age/ developmentally appropriate way • I can share and play and I am beginning to take responsibility for my actions • I will give my friend a hug if they are upset • I am beginning to be able to tell my friends what they could do to help me if they take my toys or make me upset or cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take me to groups to meet other children • Give me time to chat to my friends and my family about the things I know • Sometimes I know that my friend will want to have the toys I am playing with and I need help from a grown up to help me share these with them

Ready to learn...

I will be ready for school when...	How can you support me with being ready for school...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am curious about the work around me • I enjoy looking at books • I have some understanding of words and language • I can recognise my own name and words that are special to me like 'mummy' and my favourite shops and foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to me about new things when I notice them, like the block of ice melting in the water or the seeds in the sunflower • Help me to count claps and jumps as well as buses and dinosaurs • Give me the opportunity to find out about things that interest me, like the computer, mobile phone or tablet • Encourage me to talk to you about my paintings and drawings and tell you what my marks mean

Ready to be active...

I will be ready for school when...	How can you support me with being ready for school...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can turn pages in a book and sometimes I may turn more than one at a time when reading with you • I can hold a pencil or chunky crayon and I like to move it round and round and up and down to make different marks. I may call this my writing • I have the confidence when we are writing together to choose my own activities, explore new environments and take risks • I understand that an important part of learning is to make mistakes • I understand boundaries and rules that will keep me safe • I can tell you when I need to use the toilet • Most of the time I remember to go to the toilet in time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give me the opportunity to climb a ladder on a small slide or onto the sofa or arm chair • Give me time and the chance to explore new parks • Give me boundaries so I know what I can try

Ready to be independent...

I will be ready for school when...	How can you support me with being ready for school...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know how far I can climb up the stairs, climbing frame or slide before I know to ask you to help me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give me the experience of going to new places to be able to play with new things and people, knowing you are close by

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can tell you when I'm hungry and want something to eat or when I am tired and want to have a sleep • I can wash and dry my hands by myself • When you help me and hold my coat I can put in my arms and I can do the zip up when you start it • I can hold a spoon and feed myself • I will go to a grown up I know when I'm feeling sad, scared or worried • I can sometimes stop myself from doing something I know I shouldn't be doing • I can follow simple routines to help me do things by myself • I can choose the toys I want to play with and what I want to do with them • I know I can use tools like scissors, spoons and hammers to do different things • I like to use lots of different things like paint, paper and wool to make a picture and I can choose the material that I want to use • I am beginning to like some things more than others, I may like painting and drawing more than dancing or singing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give me the time to do things on my own, like washing my hands and putting on my coat • Gives me the opportunity to play with new object and tools to find out how they work and be allowed to choose things for myself to make a picture
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Top Tips

Allow opportunities for playful learning and stimulating your child's imagination and curiosity

Read with your child at home without any distractions

Try to have a good morning and night routine that are not rushed so your child arrives at school in a calm frame of mind and are not tired from a late or disturbed night.

Allow them to try and carry out independent tasks such as getting dressed or doing jobs or simple tasks where they have to follow simple instructions. Don't rush your child's attempts to do things for themselves. Their natural urge to be independent is good and should be embraced.