



# Is My Child Ready for School?

## Things to Consider

### Skills/Abilities

The attributes below are areas for you to consider regarding your child starting school next year. This is **NOT** a checklist.

#### Language

- Talks to other people about familiar objects.
- Answers and asks simple questions.
- Makes his or her needs known.
- Uses books for enjoyment or for looking at pictures.
- Identifies pictures in books, magazines, on television or on video.
- Uses a variety of implements to draw, scribble or write.
- Joins in singing familiar songs.

#### Number Skills

- Recognises that numbers can be used to count.
- Uses words like all, many, a lot, more, less.
- Identifies things in a group that are different.
- Sees differences in shapes.
- Sees a difference between opposites – up and down, under and over, in front of and behind, day and night.

#### Personal/Social Skills

- Should be able to use the toilet independently.
- Can say own name and address.
- Adapts to unfamiliar settings and experiences.
- Can finish a task and tidy up afterwards.
- Plays co-operatively with other children – shares and takes turns.
- Can sit and listen to a story.
- Is curious about the world.
- Can share an adult's attention with several other children.
- Participates in imaginative play.

#### Physical Skills

- Uses scissors to cut along a straight line.
- Enjoys a variety of indoor and outdoor play.
- Can put on and take off jumpers, shoes and socks independently.
- Makes and designs things using a variety of materials.



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## Things That Your Child Is Not Expected to Do

There are a number of skills that some parents think are required to start school; they are **NOT** a prerequisite for starting school. These skills are taught comprehensively in Kindergarten and the early years of school.

### Reading

- Children are not expected to know how to read before starting school. It is beneficial if they recognise their own name when it is written. Knowing the alphabet is beneficial but they are not expected to be able to identify and name each letter of the alphabet.

### Writing

- It is highly beneficial entering kindergarten if your child can use a pencil/crayon to make a mark on paper. Most children are able to use writing materials well enough to draw a recognisable human figure and colour fairly well within a given space. While many children can write their first name, this is not expected and is not a prerequisite of starting school.

### Mathematics

- It is beneficial if children can count to 10 when they start school, but beyond that is not expected. Children are not expected to recognise all numbers and do not need to know how to add and subtract. They may know the names of simple shapes, but this is not expected.

### Children With Additional Needs

Specialist advice and support is available to parents/carers of children with additional needs to help them access appropriate education services. Talk to a representative at the school as early as possible about these services.

