



Parent's Guide to "School Readiness" and What it really means!

What it should mean?

- That your child is confident and happy, happy confident children settle well and learn best
- That your child tries to be independent, but ask for help when needed
- Can take themselves to the toilet
- That your child can take off their own coat and shoes and manage their clothing
- That your child can eat their lunch with little help
- That your child is happy to experience new things and adapt to their new surroundings
- That they can try and listen
- That they can help tidy up
- That they can share space, toys and communicate ideas with other children.

What it does NOT mean?

- It does not mean that your child can read
- It does not mean they can write their own name
- It does not mean that they can recognize letters and numbers
- It does not mean they can do sums
- It does not mean they have to be able to do everything all by themselves (it is more important that they feel confident to have a go and try new things)
- Don't expect it to all go smoothly, discuss any concerns

with your child's teacher and don't forget as a parent you have the right to feedback on what is not going well.

What parents can do

- Encourage independence
- Support them with nursery routines on arrival
- Let them achieve and have a can do attitude to new things which will help your children believe they can do anything
- Understand they are growing and are very capable of having a go
- There is no such thing as being too young or too little
- Try not to use the term “big school” this can be daunting
- Talk about the names of their new teachers
- Let them try on uniform and practice putting on PE kits
- Ask your nursery for specific help if you are still concerned

Top tips

- *Attend appointments such as speech and language and eye and hearing tests as these will prevent your children making progress if they concerns are not addressed.*
- *Read with your children at home without distractions.*
- *Try to have a good morning and night time routine that are not rushed so your children arrive at school and nursery 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 little 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.*