



SCHOOL READINESS

SETTING YOUR CHILDREN UP FOR SUCCESS!



Alongside the enrolment forms, stationary, and lunchbox snacks, there are many skills that need to be considered in determining whether your child is ready for school. We have put together a list of skills that are important for a successful transition into primary schooling. It's always important to discuss the above skills with others involved in your child's life, such as their childhood educator.



Speech & Language

Ability to develop and express their own ideas (e.g. asking questions about things that they have seen or experienced).

Ability to produce speech and language that can be understood by others (e.g. talking to friends).

Ability to clearly pronounce individual sounds in words. Teachers should be able to understand 100% of what your child says.

Ability to follow an educator's instructions, including two and three step directions (e.g. "get your lunchbox and sit on the mat").

Ability to use well formed sentences. At age 5, they should be able to produce sentences with conjunctions (and, but, because).



Cognitive & Social

Capacity to manage and regulate their emotions (e.g. calm themselves down if they have become upset).

Ability to make an independent decision and follow through on this (e.g. deciding what food they would like for snack).

Skills to transition from one activity to another easily.

A good level of independence with self-help skills such as using the toilet.

Social skills including turn taking, showing an interest in other children, and interacting with children their age.

Ability to manage their own belongings (e.g. lunch box and school bag).

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SCHOOL READINESS ACTIVITIES

1

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Talk about feelings with your child. Start to tune them into different feelings e.g. "I can see you feel sad because you are crying." "I can see you feel happy because you are laughing." Help them to identify how people feel based on how they look e.g. I can see she is really sad, look at her face."

2

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

Board-games are a wonderful way to teach children basic social skills such as learning how to wait, take turns, and share. Organising some play dates can be a great way to build your child's social skills before they head off to school. It will help them to learn how to ask questions, answer questions, play games with rules, take turns and to also communicate ideas about play.

3

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT:

Reading books with your child exposes them to new language and helps foster early literacy skills. Point to the words as you read them and talk about the pictures. Get your child involved by having them turn the page and ask them questions about the book such as "who is your favourite character, what happened, what can you see on this page?". You can also get them to clap out the drumbeats of words e.g. caterpillar = cat-er-pill-ar. Singing songs and nursery rhymes is another wonderful way to help to develop phonological awareness skills.

4

FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT:

Get creative with drawing and colouring to improve your child's pencil endurance. Provide models of shapes for your child to copy. Practising cutting with scissors is another important fine motor skill to develop. You can encourage your child to cut out shapes using child friendly scissors.

5

PLAY:

Spend time interacting and playing with your child every day. During this time, give your child the opportunity to explore lots of different play. You might play shopkeepers, you could use an old box as a car and/or you could build a house from blocks. Use play to model wonderful language for your child.

6

EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE (USING LANGUAGE):

Use open-ended questions rather than those which can be answered in one or two words to encourage language development. Provide models for your child's language errors without taking away from the importance of what your child is saying. Use everyday situations to expose your child to new language. For example, point to and label items when going on a walk. (e.g. "I can see a bird, a tree, a beautiful flower" etc).

7

RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE (UNDERSTANDING):

Provide short, simple directions that your child can understand (e.g. turn the tap on, put your doll in the box). Use daily activities to encourage your child to follow two-three step directions (e.g. "get your drink bottle then put on your hat"). Use everyday situations to talk about different concepts such as big/little, in front of/behind, long/short.