

READY TO LEARN...

Six Steps to School Success

Follow these simple steps to ensure that your child is confident and happy when starting school. This will support them to settle well and thrive.



I can communicate my wants and needs.

Becoming more confident when speaking to others and being able to say when they need help, will support your child to make a smooth transition to school. Speaking in short sentences allows children to communicate their wants and needs and also supports them to make friends.

I am aware of my own feelings & am kind and caring to others.

Children need to learn that all feelings are a normal part of life, and although it isn't nice to feel sad or angry they are able to feel this emotion and learn how to cope with it. You can help your child by labelling emotions for them, for e.g. 'I can see that you are sad because you are crying, let me give you a hug to help you feel better'. Children will quickly learn that this is what they need when they feel sad, and are likely to offer it to others who are in the same situation.

I can listen & join in with an activity.

In order to make friends and play with others, children need to be able to listen and respond appropriately. Having lots of back and forth conversations helps to develop this skill. You can talk to your child about anything and everything as you go about your day, such as what you are buying in the shops or what you can see through the car window.

Following these steps will ensure that your child starts school with a strong foundation of key skills meaning that they are 'ready to learn'. Once these skills are embedded, your child will thrive at school as they learn to read, write and recognise letters and numbers.

I can follow simple instructions.

Being able to follow instructions is a very important skill when starting school. Throughout the day, children will need to listen to and follow many instructions related to what they need to do and where they need to go. You can practise this at home with simple requests, for e.g. putting toys away, and playing simple games. Make it clear that your child must follow the instruction of an adult, and give them help to achieve this if necessary.

I can play with other children & share toys with them.

At school, your child will need to share a learning space with up to 30 other children and being able to wait patiently for a turn is an essential skill they need to learn. You can practise this at home by playing simple turn taking games. Acknowledge that waiting is hard but resist offering distractions, such as technology which removes the need to wait.

I can go to the toilet by myself.

Supporting your child's independence will help their confidence at school. Show your child how to use the toilet, wipe themselves clean and wash their hands. Allow your child time to carry out independent tasks such as getting dressed. It may take longer in the short term, but your child will feel the inner motivation that they succeeded and are more likely to try.

