

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL?

Child's Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Tick those items that your child can do.

Personal Care:

Can your child:

- Get dressed without assistance (apart from tricky things like laces)
- Go to the toilet unaided
- Use a hanky or tissue for nose care
- Use a spoon well, and a knife and fork for easy food
- Drink from a cup
- Wash face and hands
- Recognise and look after belongings

Manipulation:

Can your child:

- Hold a pencil and draw simple shapes
- Draw a person with at least head, eyes, arms and legs
- Use scissors one-handed (untidy cutting is O.K.)
- Build a small tower of blocks

Motor Control:

Can your child:

- Catch a ball thrown gently from close up
- Stand on either foot for three seconds
- Walk on tiptoe for two metres without overbalancing
- Run well outdoors
- Hop on one leg

Following Direction:

Can your child:

- Follow three simple directions (eg. "Close the door, touch your toes and pick up the toy), without your having to repeat them
- Copy simple actions such as clapping three times and turning around
- Point to major body parts when they are named
- Learn new routines such as will be needed at school

General Knowledge:

Can your child:

- Say his/her full name when asked
- Understand ideas such as under, next to, beside, up and down, come and go
- Count a few blocks accurately
- Name some basic colours

Speech (speaking clearly in any language):

Can your child:

- Be understood by visitors to your home
- Ask for things by name instead of just pointing
- Use simple complete sentences (eg. "I want a drink.")
- Start conversations, rather than just answering you

Habits:

Can your child:

- Stop sucking thumb / fingers / dummy in public
- Last through the day without a sleep
- Sit quietly and do something for five minutes (not TV)

Socialisation:

Does your child:

- Accept "no" without a tantrum
- Move away from mother when both of you are in a group of parents and children
- Enjoy playing with other children
- Cope well with new situations

Print Readiness:

Does your child:

- Recognise his/her name in print
- Remember little songs and rhymes
- Show an interest in looking at books
- Enjoy having stories read to him/her

If you can most boxes (honestly) your child is probably ready for school.

If there are many unticked boxes, , think carefully. Your child probably needs a structured pre-school program. If your child will be over 5 years old at school entry, and you still have "no" answers, make an appointment to see your local School Principal to discuss any special assistance your child may need.

Adapted from
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