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Being 'school ready' is important in helping children who are new to school feel confident, positive, and able to cope with the practical independent challenges of being 'a big school kid'.

Is my child school ready? How can I help my child to become school ready? These are questions asked by parents of 4 year olds about to start school. Keeping in mind that all children learn at different rates, here are a few things which we believe help make the transition to school smooth for all.

Self-Managing Skills - can your child:

- listen carefully to stories.
- follow simple instructions eg: put the blocks back into their container please.
- sit quietly on the mat with their class.
- raise a hand to ask or answer a question.
- dress themselves – put their jersey and shoes on, put on swimming togs.
- wash their hands, blow their nose, and go to the toilet independently.
- feed themselves - open their lunch box, sit and eat food at break times.
- pack and unpack their bag, carry it and put it away.

Developing Social and Oral skills

- are they learning to, or able to, share equipment, stories etc.
- take turns.
- get along with others in a group.
- talk through their wants and to ask for help when needed.
- Share ideas or experiences with a group.

Reading, Writing and Maths

It certainly gives children a boost if they can:

- hold a pencil correctly and have some development of fine motor skills for writing.
- recognise and write their own name.

It is advantageous but not necessary if:

- they can identify both the letter name and sound of the letters in their name.
- that they may know other letter names and the sound they make.
- Can count and recognise some numbers.

To support children with this transition, we get them to do a visit each week for the 3 weeks prior to them starting. This enables children, and parents, to meet and build a relationship with the teacher and the other children in their class. Our Teachers are skilled in assessing and catering for each child's learning needs. They are dedicated to providing stimulating programmes that develop curiosity and children's natural desire to learn.
