

Is your child ready to learn?

Central Bedfordshire

great
prospects

When your child goes to school they need to have a number of skills in place which will mean that they are able to learn. For example, can they follow instructions, can they make themselves understood?

Our sixteen ticks	Consider...
To sit still and listen	Do you have one-to-one time with your child where they need to sit and listen, such as reading a story? Do you play games where your child needs to follow instructions, such as 'Simon Says'?
To be aware of other children and make friends	Do you promote manners and respect for others? Does your child know to wait for others to stop speaking before talking or to say 'excuse me' before interrupting? Do you talk about feelings in all kinds of situations? Do you play games where children need to take turns?
To understand the word 'no' and the boundaries it sets	Do you and others treat behaviour of your child consistently e.g. child carer, relatives? Do you model behaviour in a way that you would expect your child to behave? Are there non-negotiable rules that your child understands, such as holding hands when crossing the road? Do you explain why you are saying 'no' or 'stop'?
To understand the word 'stop' and that this might be used to prevent danger	
To be toilet trained and able to visit the toilet alone	Do you know the signs when your child is ready to start toileting? Have you thought how to manage accidents? Do you encourage your child to be as independent as possible, including dressing themselves and wiping their own bottom?
To recognise own name and familiar signs and logos.	Do you write your child's name when playing? Is your child's name visible at home e.g. in birthday cards, in clothing or when drawing? Do you point out popular logos and signs and tell your child what they mean? Is your child starting to recognise the meaning of signs and logos?
To speak to an adult and ask for help	Have you talked with your child about which adults to ask for help and that it is okay to ask for help?
To be able to take off coat and put on shoes	Do you allow enough time for your child to dress and undress themselves without having to hurry them or do it all for them? Make sure the clothes they wear are manageable.
To talk in sentences and use an extending vocabulary	Do you listen to your child and model appropriate speech and conversation when talking to them? Do you share new words with your child and explain what they mean?
To open and enjoy a book	Does your child see you reading books, newspapers or magazines? Do you share books on a regular basis? Do you tell and make up stories? Do you visit the library?
To be able to hold a pencil properly to draw and write	Are there opportunities for your child to draw with writing tools, such as pencils, crayons, chalks or sticks in mud? Do you encourage your child to pretend to write? Do you show your child the shapes and sounds of letters?
To eat a meal or snack unaided and identify and enjoy healthy foods	Children need to practise using their cutlery because it is difficult to learn. Have meals together with your children; let them help prepare for meal times such as peeling carrots and setting the table. Do you have a routine for washing your hands before eating? Do you give your child a variety of different healthy foods?
Recognise numbers and quantities in the everyday environment	Point out numbers to your child eg on doors, cars and in books. Count with your child and encourage them to touch each item as they say the number.
Make sure your child has received all of their immunisations and relevant health checks	Are you registered with a doctor, dentist and health visitor? Has your child had all of their pre-school checks? Are all of your child's jabs up to date?
Have a good level of physical activity	Does your child play outside? Take your child to the park and play running, skipping and hopping games. Let your child play on climbing equipment. Does your child cycle or ride a scooter?
Participate in musical activities	Does your child listen to lots of different types of music? Do you play rhyming games? Do you sing songs or visit music groups?

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