

# New Entrants and Readiness

## *Starting school is exciting!*

*Remember to be positive, reassuring, confident, supportive, cheerful and enthusiastic about it.*

A month or so before the date that your child is due to begin school, we will contact you to arrange a date for two pre-entry visits for you and your child. During these visits your child will join in with part of the day's programme. For the first visit you are welcome to stay in the classroom – this will help your child to feel settled and secure. For the second visit we recommend that you allow your child time alone in the classroom. Children may visit in their school uniforms or mufti clothing.

We have outlined some of the skills which your child will require during their first term of school. While everyone knows that children develop at different rates and schools accept children as they are, these are some of the ways you can help your child to be prepared for school so that they settle in easily and happily in the first few months at school.

## School Readiness Checklist



### Concept Development

Does your child ...

- recognise and/or name colours?
- match or sort items?
- participate in art and music activities?
- understand concepts such as: in, out, under, on, off, front and back?
- know his/her body parts (head, shoulders, knees etc.)?
- draw a picture of her/himself including head, body, arms and legs?
- demonstrate curiosity, persistence and exploratory behaviour?



## Physical Development

Does your child ...

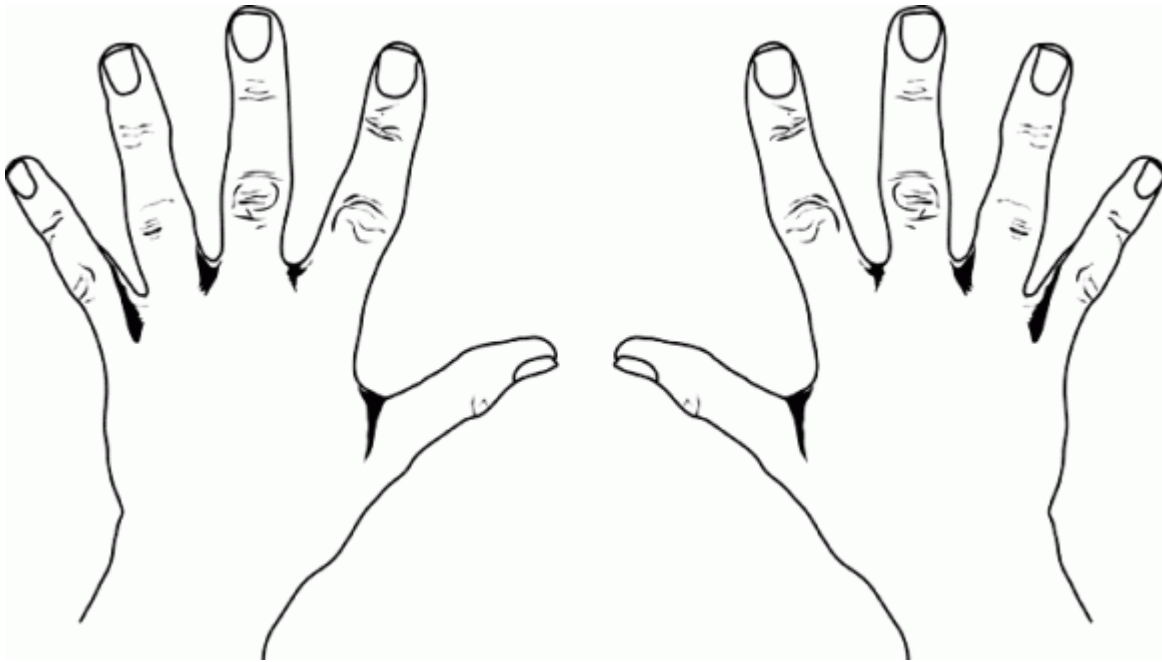
- put puzzles together?
- cut out with scissors?
- try to tie her/his shoes?
- enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping and climbing?
- hold a crayon or marker?
- bounce a ball?



## Health and Safety

Does your child ...

- have a set routine and schedule for preparing for: preparing for bed, brushing teeth, taking a bath, eating meals?
- use good habits (e.g., closes mouth when chewing, covers nose and mouth when sneezing, washes hands after using the toilet and before eating)?
- follow simple safety rules?
- eat healthy foods?



## Number Concept Development

Does your child ...

- arrange items in groups according to size, shape or colour?
- group items that are the same?
- arrange toys or objects in size order, big to small or small to big?
- use words like bigger, smaller or heaviest to show comparison?
- compare the size of groups of toys or items?
- correctly count four to ten objects?
- show an understanding of the passing of time?

## Language

Does your child ...

- talk in sentences?
- follow through when you give her/him one or two instructions?
- use descriptive language? ("That's a tall building with round windows")
- use simple conversational sentences?
- sing and/or recite nursery rhymes?
- use sentences that include two or more separate ideas?
- pretend, create, and make up songs or stories?
- talk about everyday experiences? (i.e. ask questions about how things work in the world around her/him?)
- express his/her ideas so that others can understand?
- tell or retell stories?





**Here is a link to check whether your child is speaking at the approximate expected level. Please note that this is a *guide*:**

<http://www.blankees.com/baby/speech/>

## **Writing**

Does your child ...

- try to write, scribble or draw?
- have a collection of paper, pencils and crayons?
- like to receive notes from you and others?
- ask you to write words or notes to people?
- use chalk or magnetic letters?
- attempt to write letters and/or numbers?
- attempt to write his/her name?
- attempt to invent his/her own spelling while writing (scribbling sentences)?
- see you writing? (e.g. notes, recipes, lists, letters, reminders)



## Reading

Does your child ...

- enjoy getting a book as a present?
- have many books of his/her own and a special place to keep them?
- recognise her/his first name in print?
- look at books or pictures on his/her own?
- read stories or verses to you? (e.g. share verses or stories read at school, reads or pretends to read library books)
- try to read in everyday situations? (e.g. street signs, store signs, cereal boxes, newspapers, magazines, TV advertisements)
- try to talk about or retell stories of poems heard in school?
- try to read along with you on favourite parts of the story or sentences that are repeated over and over again?
- see you reading? (i.e. books, magazines, letters, newspapers, recipes etc)
- know any nursery rhymes, rhymes or jingles by heart?
- pretend to read books by reading pictures?



## Social and Emotional Development

Does your child ...

- use words to solve problems when angry or frustrated?
- use words such as 'please', 'thank you' and 'excuse me'?
- attempt new tasks knowing it's okay to make mistakes?
- do things for him/herself? (e.g. dress self, put away own toys and belongings, take care of own toileting needs)
- have success in taking turns and sharing?
- interact appropriately with peers and have friends?
- ask for help when necessary?
- stay with an activity to completion? (e.g. finish a picture, build something with blocks/Lego)
- follow through when given instructions?
- comply with rules, limits and routines?
- interact appropriately with adults?
- respect the rights, property and feelings of others?