

# Children Ready For School Success



## Are you getting your children and families ready for September 2025?

Transition into school can be a worrying and stressful time for children and parents/carers. A smooth transition is essential to support emotional health and wellbeing, and children who are well supported learn positive ways of coping with change.

Starting school is a huge step in any child's life and staff from both early years provisions and schools need to work together to support families in this transition period.

It is important that children and parents / carers are given opportunities to familiarise themselves with the school environment so that they can start building relationships with the key members of staff. Parents and carers need to have clear information about what will be happening in the transition process and how they can support their child.

Preparation for the transition should begin early and childcare providers and schools should develop and maintain positive relationships to facilitate the process. Practitioners should ensure that there is good communication and information-sharing between themselves and parents / carers prior to a child starting school.

What enables children to be ready for school success?

"From conception, supporting parents and families to support their children to have strong social skills, being able to cope emotionally with being separated from parents, having effective communication, being relatively independent in their own personal care and to have a curiosity about the world and a desire to learn." This will then ensure that we have:

Ready communities + Ready services + Ready families + Ready children = Children ready for school success

## What should you be doing **now** to support transition to primary school Sept 2025?

Please refer to the transition timeline on page 2 and begin to share the '[Children Ready for School Success checklist and journey to school resources](https://wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/early-years-childcare-and-play/children-ready-school-success)' <https://wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/early-years-childcare-and-play/children-ready-school-success>.

# Children Ready for School Success Timeline



Early Years Providers

Autumn Term:  
Sept – Dec

School/Teachers

- Provide Information boards QR code of 'Children Ready for School Success' add link to school admissions
- Remind parents / social workers to apply for school places before the mid-Jan deadline. Offer support on completing the school admissions process.
- Review policies to ensure permissions are in place to share transition records.
- Arrange meetings/information sessions with parents / carers to discuss school transition, the process and 'Children Ready for School Success' resources. Invite a school to attend some of these meetings.
- Inform parents / carers of the schools open days/tours for children moving to school next Sept via school websites
- Address any outstanding issues identified in the 2yr old progress check and ongoing development reviews.
- Attend transition networks.
- Ensure that all annual EHCP reviews are applied/completed and receiving settings involved

- Attend transition network.
- Provide feedback to early years providers/WBC on 'previous Sept' transition records and processes, are there any areas that could be enhanced or changed.
- Continue to hold discussions on current cohort progress in settling in and development.
- Continue to build relationships and 'presence' of early years providers. Invite Early Years providers to harvest festival, carol concerts and other seasonal school productions and events.

Private: Information that contains a small amount of sensitive data which is essential to communicate with an individual but doesn't require to be sent via secure methods.

### The Journey to School

Helping ALL children have a smoother transition into school

**Develop an interest in stories, sounds and numbers (explore rhyming words)**  
A bedtime story helps with a bedtime routine (turn pages together and look at the pictures)  
Talk to your child in your home language

**Enjoy play**  
• Follow your child's lead  
• Drawing, painting or mark making  
• Turn taking activities

**Support your child to brush their teeth twice per day and visit the dentist regularly**

**Look up the school route and point when you pass**  
Talk to them positively about starting school

**Follow your child's interests**  
• Discuss what you see, hear, feel, smell and taste  
• Count, sort and measure in everyday activities  
• Explore nature and get out in the fresh air

**Try to limit screen time each day, especially at night. Screen time can be very exciting and engaging for children but can be addictive and stop children being as curious and creative as they are when screens are not around**

**Support your child to:**  
• Get dressed independently (practise zipping buttons, putting on socks and shoes, shoes)  
• Go to the toilet and wiping their bottom on their own  
• Cut food using a knife and fork  
• Tidy up their toys  
• Recognise their name in writing and to non-verbally respond to it verbally (create a named object bag at home)

**If your child has additional needs and/or disabilities, please also consider:**  
• Communicating with the school SENCO. Arrange transition visits and a home visit with class teacher if possible.  
• Ensure your child's Early Years setting has shared a transition report or 'one-page profile' with the school.  
• Share photos of the new class teacher, classroom and play areas with your child to support their transition into school.

**Buy school uniform early and let your child get used to wearing it in the summer holidays.**

**Allow your child to choose their lunch box or water bottle and become familiar with them before starting school. Plan out the school meal choices and show your child to choose a meal they like**

**Try to embed routines to help prepare for having 5 days at school. In the lead up to starting school try to get up the same time each day and make mealtimes and bedtimes become routine.**

Please see website for further information or if you have any concerns, please contact your Health Visiting or School Nursing Team  
Health Visiting: 07312263283  
School Nursing: 07312263194

Berkshire Healthcare Children, Young People & Families Services  
Reading Directory  
Stockport Forest Directory  
West Berkshire Directory  
Wokingham Directory

### Starting School Checklist

Is your child ready for school success?

Tick off as you go. ✓

**Toileting**

- I can use the toilet alone, wipe myself clean and flush the toilet
- I can wash and dry my hands on my own after using the toilet

**Self-Care**

- I can wash my hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially before and after meals
- I can wipe my nose
- I brush my teeth twice a day
- I am learning to cough and sneeze into a tissue or into my elbow
- I can ask for help when I don't feel well

**Social Skills**

- I enjoy interacting with other children and adults
- I can share and take turns
- I like new experiences, including everyday life such as shopping, cooking, and learning objects
- I can follow instructions and follow rules
- I can express my feelings using words such as sad, happy, worried, angry, frustrated
- I can make myself understood by my friends & adults

**Mealtimes**

- I like eating a variety of healthy food
- I can use a knife and fork
- I can open packaging and wrappers by myself
- I drink 6-8 cups of water a day

**Independence**

- I have talked with my parent/carer about what school will be like
- I know I can talk to someone if I have any worries at school
- I can hold a pencil
- I know my own name both spoken and written down

**Health**

- Any health issues have been addressed by my GP
- I am up to date with my vaccinations
- I am registered with a dentist
- I am physically active
- I have no hearing or eyesight concerns

**Routines**

- I have a good bedtime routine which includes a bedtime story
- I have set mealtimes, just like they do in school
- I have limited screen time

**Getting dressed and undressed**

- I can put on and take off my uniform by myself, including zipping buttons and zips
- I can put my shoes on
- I can put on my own coat
- I understand some parts of my body are private

Health Visiting: 07312263283  
School Nursing: 07312263194

If you have any concerns about your child being ready to start school, please get in touch with the Health Visiting or School Nursing Team via our **Childcare service** or your child's **early years setting**

If your child has any additional needs speak to your early years setting for further advice

For more information visit our website: Berkshire Healthcare Children, Young People and Families

As mentioned on page 1 you can share the 'Children Ready for School Success checklist' and 'journey to school' with parents and carers. With your sensitive guidance this will help identify areas where their child may need extra support in being school ready.

<https://wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/early-years-childcare-and-play/children-ready-school-success>

If you have any queries regarding supporting children and parents ready for primary school transitions please email the early years team on [earlyyears@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@wokingham.gov.uk)