# Is My Child Ready for Preschool? (Ages 3+)

**Starting preschool is a big step—for children and parents! Every child develops at their own pace, so don't worry if your child isn't doing everything on this list. These are just helpful guidelines.**

<table>
<tr><td><br>Personal and Social Skills</td><td><br>Communication & Language</td></tr>
<tr><td>Your child may be starting to:<ul><li>Separate from you (even if they need reassurance at first)</li><li>Play alongside or with other children</li><li>Begin to take turns (with support)</li><li>Express feelings (e.g. "I'm sad", "I'm cross")</li></ul></td><td>Your child may:<ul><li>Use simple sentences (3–5 words or more)</li><li>Understand basic instructions (e.g. "put your coat on")</li><li>Enjoy listening to stories</li><li>Start to ask questions</li></ul></td></tr>
<tr><td><br>Independence Skills</td><td><br>Playing and Learning</td></tr>
<tr><td>It really helps if your child can begin to:<ul><li>Use the toilet (or is working towards it)</li><li>Wash hands with some help</li><li>Attempt to put on coat or shoes</li><li>Sit for short periods during snack or story time</li></ul></td><td>Your child may enjoy:<ul><li>Playing with toys (building, role play, puzzles)</li><li>Drawing, painting, or mark-making</li><li>Exploring outdoors</li><li>Trying new activities (even if they need encouragement)</li></ul></td></tr>
<tr><td><br>Physical Skills</td><td><br>Emotional Readiness</td></tr>
<tr><td>Your child may be able to:<ul><li>Walk, run, and climb confidently</li><li>Use their hands for small tasks (e.g. holding a crayon)</li><li>Begin to use simple tools like spoons or brushes</li></ul></td><td>It's okay if your child:<ul><li>Feels nervous or upset at first</li><li>Needs comfort from adults</li><li>Takes time to settle</li></ul>👉 This is completely normal, and we will support them every step of the way.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">How You Can Help at Home<ul><li>Talk to your child about preschool in a positive way</li><li>Practise simple routines (getting dressed, handwashing)</li><li>Read books together every day</li><li>Encourage independence (even if it takes longer!)</li></ul></td></tr>
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**Remember:** every child is different. Preschool is designed to help children grow in confidence, independence and skills over time – not to expect perfection from day one!