School Readiness Checklist

For families of 4 and 5 year olds in NSW

Tick what your child can do most of the time. Nobody ticks every box before kindergarten, and gaps are normal. Use it to notice strengths, spot what to practise, and start a conversation with your child's educators.

Early literacy

- [ ] Enjoys listening to a story and can retell the main events
- [ ] Hears rhymes and can clap the syllables in their name
- [ ] Recognises their own name and some letters in it
- [ ] Holds a pencil with control and tries to write their name

Early numeracy

- [ ] Counts a small group of objects and says how many there are
- [ ] Compares sizes and amounts: bigger, smaller, more, fewer
- [ ] Notices and continues a simple pattern
- [ ] Uses words like first, next, before and after

Self-help and independence

- [ ] Uses the toilet and washes hands without reminders
- [ ] Puts on shoes, a jumper and a hat, and knows which are theirs
- [ ] Opens their own lunchbox, containers and wrappers
- [ ] Packs and carries their own bag and water bottle

Focus and attention

- [ ] Sits and listens in a small group for 10 to 15 minutes
- [ ] Follows a two-step instruction
- [ ] Stays with a task until it is finished
- [ ] Waits for a turn to speak

Social and emotional confidence

- [ ] Joins in play with other children and takes turns
- [ ] Names feelings such as frustrated, nervous or proud
- [ ] Copes with small disappointments and tries again
- [ ] Asks an adult for help when they need it

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In NSW, children can start Kindergarten at the beginning of the year if they turn 5 on or before 31 July, and must be enrolled in school by their 6th birthday (NSW Department of Education).