



Shoes with Velcro fastenings and elasticated waists on clothes will be easier for your child to manipulate and will help them to dress themselves more independently. Give them a challenge to pull out sleeves on a jumper or legs in a pair of trousers that are inside out.



Practise 1:1 counting with your child when you:

- **Go up and down stairs**
- **Put knives, forks and spoons on the table for dinner**
- **Pick up toys to put away**
- **Put toys in the bath**



Support your child with reading by:

- **Visiting your local library**
- **Talking together about the pictures in a book**
- **Looking at labels and signs in a shop**



Give your child a plastic knife and fork that is comfortable for them to hold and food that is easy to cut.

Let them practice this skill with cutting playdough or pastry.



Encourage your child to write by:

- **Providing different writing materials for them to explore (crayons, felt pens, highlighter pens, chalks, paint, food colouring, fabric pens, notebooks, whiteboards, envelopes, post-it notes, etc)**
- **Write their name in yellow pen so they can trace over the top**
- **Give them dot-to-dot activities**



Encourage independent toileting and handwashing by:

- **Giving lots of praise and rewards**
- **Providing a small step to help your child reach the sink**
- **Providing a personalized soap dispenser and towel**



Here are some different checklists you can go through with your child when they practise getting ready for school.



Getting Ready for School Checklist

I can...	I can...	I can...
recognise my name <input type="checkbox"/>	hold my pencil carefully <input type="checkbox"/>	put on my socks <input type="checkbox"/>
write the first letter <input type="checkbox"/>	draw a face <input type="checkbox"/>	find my shoes <input type="checkbox"/>
copy my name <input type="checkbox"/>	colour in carefully <input type="checkbox"/>	put on my shoes <input type="checkbox"/>
write my name <input type="checkbox"/>	name the colours I use <input type="checkbox"/>	do up my shoes <input type="checkbox"/>



I can...	I can...	I can...
count from 1 to 10 <input type="checkbox"/>	sing simple rhymes <input type="checkbox"/>	find my bag <input type="checkbox"/>
recognise each number <input type="checkbox"/>	sing and clap to a song <input type="checkbox"/>	zip up my bag <input type="checkbox"/>
place 1 to 10 in order <input type="checkbox"/>	tap a beat <input type="checkbox"/>	dress myself <input type="checkbox"/>
write 1 to 5 in order <input type="checkbox"/>	move to music <input type="checkbox"/>	do buttons <input type="checkbox"/>

1 2 3 4 5



I can...	I can...	I can...
eat with a knife and fork <input type="checkbox"/>	tidy away my toys <input type="checkbox"/>	say please when I ask <input type="checkbox"/>
pour myself a drink <input type="checkbox"/>	clear away things I've used <input type="checkbox"/>	say thank you when I get <input type="checkbox"/>
taste different foods <input type="checkbox"/>	put my clothes away <input type="checkbox"/>	ask to go to the toilet <input type="checkbox"/>
wash my hands before and after meals <input type="checkbox"/>	help at home <input type="checkbox"/>	wait my turn to talk <input type="checkbox"/>



I can...	I can...	I can...
clean myself <input type="checkbox"/>	use the stairs hand rail <input type="checkbox"/>	cut along a line <input type="checkbox"/>
wash my hands <input type="checkbox"/>	hold hands on the street <input type="checkbox"/>	cut 'snips' into paper <input type="checkbox"/>
dry my hands <input type="checkbox"/>	take turns when playing <input type="checkbox"/>	cut out a shape <input type="checkbox"/>
go to the toilet when I need to <input type="checkbox"/>	share toys with a friend <input type="checkbox"/>	cut out shapes to make a picture <input type="checkbox"/>



Everyone starts school being able to do different things; your teacher will help you learn more

Self Care

- I can get dressed by myself
- I know when to wash my hands
- I can ask for help when I need it

Physical skills

- I can run, jump, climb and balance
- I am used to walking short distances

Writing Skills

- I enjoy making marks with different things
- I can use scissors
- I enjoy messy play

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my family
- I am happy to tidy my belongings
- I am feeling confident about starting school
- I can make my own choices

Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own
- I can wash and dry my hands without help
- I wear pants, not pull-ups

Communication

- I am able to listen
- I can follow simple instructions
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs and feelings

Routines

- I have practiced putting my uniform on and being ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I am not tired for school

Counting skills

- I like saying number rhymes
- I can play simple counting games

Reading skills

- I like stories and looking at picture books
- I am trying to recognise my name when it is written down

Eating

- I can use a knife and fork
- I can drink from an open cup
- I can open my packed lunch on my own

Interest in the world and new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
- I am interested in exploring new things
- I like asking questions

Sharing and turn taking

- I can share toys and take turns
- I like playing games with others
- I like being with other children

We will be ready to learn at school!

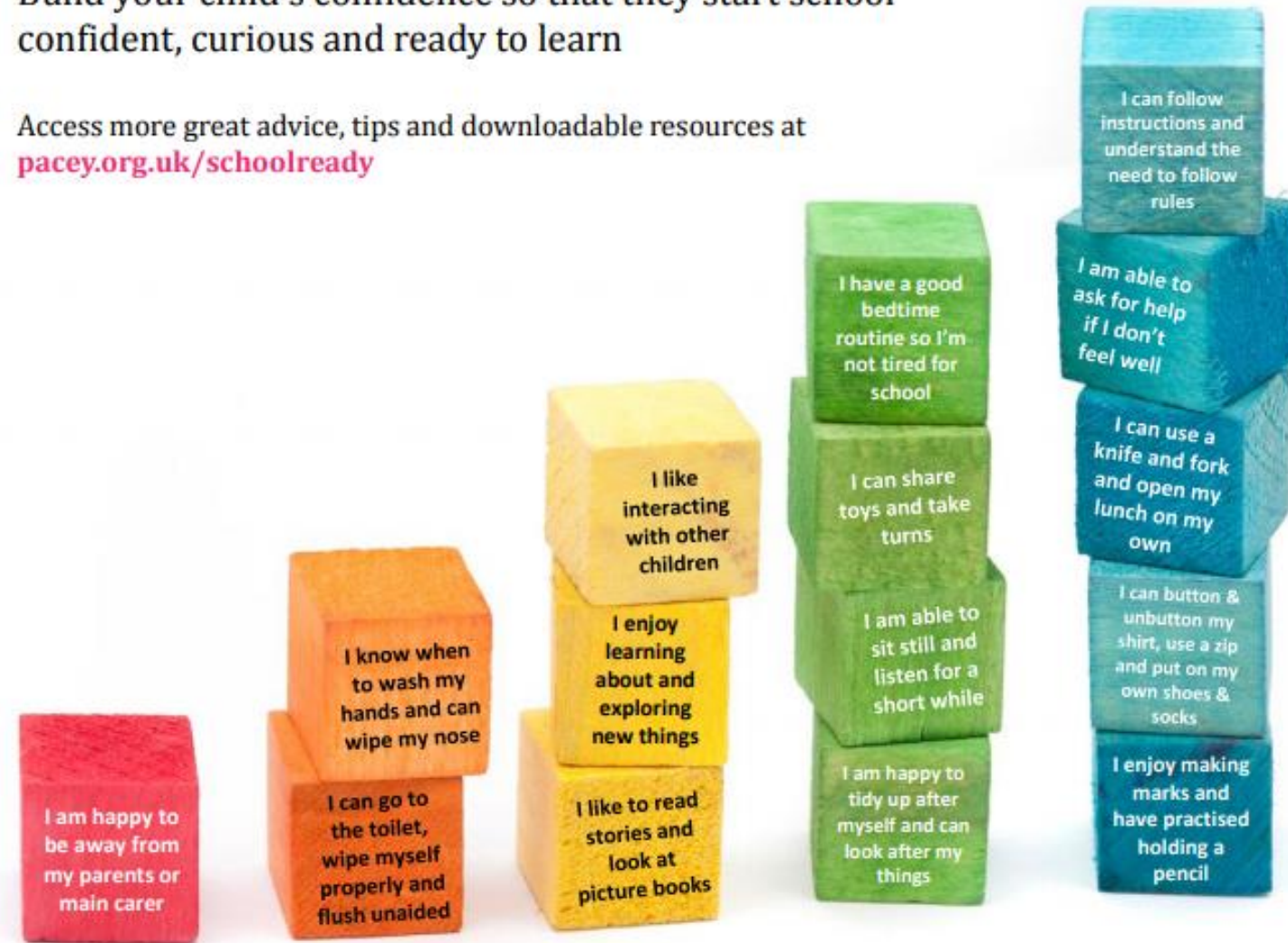


Let's get ready for school

Steps to starting school

Build your child's confidence so that they start school confident, curious and ready to learn

Access more great advice, tips and downloadable resources at pacey.org.uk/schoolready



More top tips:

- ★ Get your child ready for their new routine by switching their meal times to match those of the school day
- ★ Encourage your child to explore new environments and interact with new people
- ★ Talk to your child about what they are most looking forward to at school
- ★ Let your child practise putting their new school uniform on and taking it off
- ★ **And remember**, every child is different and starts school with different abilities