

What is 'School Readiness?'

School Readiness is **not** about starting a formal approach to learning as early as possible.

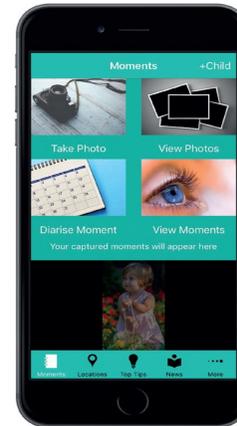
Your child learns and develops mainly through play. It cannot be stressed enough how valuable play opportunities are for your child, allowing him/her to explore the world around them and make connections in their thinking which leads to deep level learning. All the positive experiences that babies and young children can receive contribute towards them being 'ready for school'.

Supporting your child to become independent, communicative, feeding and dressing themselves, using the toilet and knowing and understanding their own needs is great preparation for later when these skills will be invaluable.

Two exciting FREE apps to support you with your child's learning and development ...

SmarterPlay

Kent County Council has developed this highly useful app with up-to-date information offering families with pre-school children ideas, information and useful links to promote and enhance their learning, development and life experiences which support 'school readiness' ... literally at your fingertips



Born to move

is an NHS app to help parents and carers with their newborn babies right up to pre-school. It's packed with advice, tips and games that you can play with your child supporting their early development. Encouraging active play and interaction everyday helps the learning and wiring of your baby's brain at this critical stage



Ready for school?



Starting school is a very exciting step in a child's life and may be stressful for some children, parents and families

This leaflet aims to reassure and inform you of some simple and fun everyday opportunities to support your child start school healthy, happy, active, curious, sociable and keen for the next phase of life and learning.

YOU are your child's most important and on-going educator—support and encourage them with ...

'School Readiness' is **not** about getting children ready for school... rather, it is 'part and parcel' of lifelong learning

... chatting about likes, dislikes, feelings and emotions—use pictures and stories

... dressing and feeding themselves, and using the toilet

... making healthy nutritious food and drink choices, especially water

... being active every day—run, jump, dance, hop and skip

... exploring the outdoors—look at nature together

... developing a love of books, stories and songs

Children progress and learn at different rates and will, hopefully, demonstrate a wide range of unique capabilities supporting their readiness for school by the time they enter Key Stage 1 (KS1). However, we need to be mindful that 'school readiness' is NOT about ...

- being compliant
- being able to sit still
- being able to 'line up'
- being able to read
- being able to write
- being able to count to 20
- being able to tie shoe laces
- being able to do homework

...asking questions, encourage talking—wait for the answers!

... being able to follow simple instructions

...showing interest in their fascination and curiosity to learn—what does interest them?

... being creative and exploring messy play—paint, playdough etc.

... turn-taking, helping and sharing together at home

... praise and encourage effort - celebrate abilities and strengths

Your child is unique and will develop at their own pace and rate. If you require advice on meeting your child's needs and progress, please ask your Early Years setting, childminder, Children's Centre or local Health Visiting team ...