

# What do teachers expect from school starters?



## Meeting expectations

We all know that children develop at different rates, and that most children are stronger in some areas than in others. But being ready for school doesn't just rely on what YOU think school readiness is...

Being ready for school depends partly on what the teachers at the school you've chosen for your child expect.

## Skills teachers look for

It might surprise you to know that, when it comes to school readiness, teachers don't rate being able to read and recite the numbers from one to one hundred as major priorities.

In fact, American research has found that more than half of teachers surveyed believed that children's health, self-awareness and ability to follow instructions are much more important school readiness skills..

Before your child comes into their classroom, it's likely that the teacher will want to know that:

- ✓ Your child's vision, hearing, speech and dental problems have been detected and addressed
- ✓ Your child can recognize his or her name
- ✓ Your child can follow basic rules and routines

## What is the least you can do to help your child succeed?

To help your child meet the expectations of teachers next year, it's important to start building his or her independence now. A good question to ask yourself is...what is the least I can do to help my child succeed? In other words, how far can you stand back and let your child achieve this on his or her own?

So, without your help, can your child:

- |                       |                             |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| ✓ Use the toilet?     | ✓ Do up buttons and zips?   | ✓ Remember to collect their belongings? |
| ✓ Wash their hands?   | ✓ Eat unassisted?           | ✓ Ask for help?                         |
| ✓ Manage their shoes? | ✓ Put toys away when asked? |   |

These are the kinds of school readiness skills that teachers value because they help children to be self-reliant. With self-reliance some competence and confidence...and this is exactly what we all want for your child at school next year!

*Sonja Walker*



Sonja is a teacher, author, speaker and mum. She is also the founder of Kids First Children's Services, an award-winning paediatric health and education practice in Sydney where she leads a highly experienced team of child psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and teachers. Sonja's mission is to help kids thrive by supporting their parents and teachers with practical solutions and easy ideas that make life happier at home, preschool and school. She presents keynote speeches and workshops in preschools, schools and workplaces and is a sought after media commentator on topics related to children's learning and development.

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