



Is My Child Ready?

Use this checklist to help you reflect on your child's development across the key areas assessed at leading independent school 4+ entry.
Every child develops differently - this is simply a guide

Cognitive & Academic Readiness

- Focus on a short adult-led task?
- Count objects up to 10 (or beyond)?
- Recognise some letters or sounds?
- Match, sort or complete simple patterns and sequences?
- Identify shapes, colours, or numbers confidently?
- Speak in full sentences and describe a picture or story?

Fine Motor & Physical Readiness

- Hold a pencil or crayon with reasonable control?
- Use scissors to snip or cut along a line?
- Complete basic puzzles or threading activities?
- Put on or take off coat and shoes with some independence?
- Manage snacks, toileting and hand washing mostly independently?

Social & Emotional Skills

- Separate from you without distress?
- Take turns and share during group play?
- Show kindness or empathy to others?
- Express their feelings or ask for help appropriately?
- Follow simple two-step instructions?
- Manage transitions (e.g. moving between activities)?

Creative Thinking & Communication

- Show curiosity by asking questions or exploring new ideas?
- Engage in imaginative or role play?
- Create a simple picture, story or build something from blocks?
- Retell or respond to a story with recall or ideas?

Parent Insight

- I can see my child is beginning to thrive in structured activities
- My child enjoys learning and shows curiosity about the world
- I would like expert insight on how to prepare with confidence

- If you've ticked many of these boxes – fantastic! Your child may be ready to begin 4+ preparation
- If not yet – don't worry. These skills can be nurtured gently through play and expert-led support