Is My Child Ready for Preschool?

A checklist for parents of 3 and 4 year olds

Feelings and friends

- [ ] Says goodbye to a grown-up without too much upset
- [ ] Plays next to or with other children
- [ ] Takes turns and shares, with a little help
- [ ] Tells a grown-up when something is wrong

Looking after myself

- [ ] Uses the toilet, or says when they need to go
- [ ] Washes and dries their hands
- [ ] Eats a snack without help
- [ ] Puts on a coat and shoes, with a little help

Talking and listening

- [ ] Asks for what they need in short sentences
- [ ] Follows a simple two-step instruction
- [ ] Sits and listens to a short story
- [ ] Answers simple questions about their day

Hands and body

- [ ] Holds a crayon and draws or scribbles
- [ ] Runs, jumps and climbs
- [ ] Turns the pages of a book
- [ ] Builds a small tower of blocks

Early learning

- [ ] Knows a few colours and shapes
- [ ] Counts two or three things
- [ ] Joins in with songs and rhymes
- [ ] Knows their own name

Every child grows at their own pace. This is a friendly guide, not a test: ticking most boxes is plenty. If you have worries, talk to your child's doctor or nursery.