

## Lancashire School Readiness Definition:

**A locally agreed understanding of  
what being 'school ready' means.**

Partnership working between early years settings, schools and parents, where there is a local mutual understanding of what is expected in terms of a child's readiness for school, is an essential factor for any child to be well prepared for their transition to reception class.

This definition has been compiled following an analysis of research and through consultation with a range of Lancashire professionals from all sectors. It is designed to be adapted, as needed, to suit your setting and locality needs.

### How you may wish to use it

- Consider the statements and discuss with your team
- Decide whether they need adapting to suit your context
- Share with parents and carers to help them get their child ready for school, alongside the booklet: [helping-my-child-get-ready-for-starting-school.pdf](https://lancashire.gov.uk/helping-my-child-get-ready-for-starting-school.pdf) ([lancashire.gov.uk](https://lancashire.gov.uk))

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

#### Children should be able to:

- Leave their carer and happily come into school
- Interact positively and appropriately with others
- Listen when someone else is speaking
- Talk about their feelings
- Consider how others might be feeling
- Play co-operatively with other children, taking turns and sharing
- Talk with others to try to solve conflicts
- Follow simple rules
- Dress themselves independently e.g. footwear, coats, cardigans
- Go to the toilet independently
- Show perseverance and determination when working on a task
- Respect others' property and school resources

### Communication and Language

#### Children should be able to:

- Listen attentively for a short period of time
- Use a wide range of vocabulary
- Join in with stories, songs and rhymes
- Talk about characters in a story
- Understand a simple question and respond appropriately
- Follow simple verbal instructions e.g. 'Put your coat on the hook.', 'Wash your hands.', 'Fasten your coat.'
- Talk about their own needs, feelings and ideas
- Know and talk about familiar people and places
- Join in a short conversation

### Physical Development

#### Children should be able to:

- Use small tools and equipment e.g. scissors for snipping, holding a tool for mark making, using a knife and fork
- Put on and fasten a coat with a zip or buttons
- Move confidently in a range of ways e.g. walk, run, jump, climb, crawl
- Be independent and confident when moving and using equipment
- Choose the right resources for an activity
- Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding a pencil

**Further supporting tools on transition and school readiness can be found here:**

[Pre-school transition documents](#)  
- [Lancashire County Council](#)

[Getting ready to start school](#)  
- [Lancashire County Council](#)

