YEAR LEVEL READINESS CHECKLISTS

YEAR 1 TO YEAR 6

A free guide for parents from Education Help

Practical checklists to help you notice your child's strengths and choose a few gentle next steps.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Pick the year your child is moving into. Read each line together. Tick what your child does most of the time. Choose one or two unticked items to practise at home over a few weeks. Come back and tick again.

A GENTLE GUIDE, NOT A TEST

Children develop at different rates. Use these pages to start a helpful conversation and celebrate what your child can already do.

READY FOR YEAR 1?
A PARENT CHECKLIST

For children finishing Prep and moving into Year 1. Aligned to the Australian Curriculum Version 9. Use it to notice strengths and pick one or two things to practise.

ENGLISH

- ☐ Retells a favourite story in the right order
- ☐ Knows most letter sounds and matches them to letters
- ☐ Has a go at sounding out simple words
- ☐ Joins in with rhymes and word play
- ☐ Writes their own name and has a go at a simple sentence

MATHEMATICS

- ☐ Counts forwards and backwards from 20
- ☐ Recognises and names numerals to 10 or more
- ☐ Adds and subtracts small amounts using objects
- ☐ Names a circle, square, triangle and rectangle
- ☐ Compares things using words like longer, shorter, heavier, lighter

YEAR 1 READINESS, CONTINUED

LEARNING HABITS AND WELLBEING

- ☐ Packs and unpacks their own bag
- ☐ Follows two or three step instructions
- ☐ Manages the toilet, hat and lunch box without help
- ☐ Feels happy to separate from you at drop-off
- ☐ Is happy to have a go, even when unsure

THREE THINGS TO TRY AT HOME

1. Read aloud together for 10 minutes each day.
2. Count everyday things such as stairs, grapes and steps to the letterbox.
3. Write a shopping list or birthday card together.

This checklist is a guide, not a test. Every child grows at their own pace and schools plan their own programs. Talk to your child's teacher about what your child needs next.

READY FOR YEAR 2?
A PARENT CHECKLIST

For children finishing Year 1 and moving into Year 2. Aligned to the Australian Curriculum Version 9. Use it to notice strengths and pick one or two things to practise.

ENGLISH

- ☐ Reads short books with growing confidence
- ☐ Uses letter sounds to read and spell new words
- ☐ Writes a few sentences with a capital letter and full stop
- ☐ Talks about what happened in a story and how a character felt
- ☐ Rereads their own writing to check it makes sense

MATHEMATICS

- ☐ Counts, reads and writes numbers to 100
- ☐ Adds and subtracts small numbers in their head or with objects
- ☐ Skip counts by 2s, 5s and 10s
- ☐ Tells o'clock and half past on a clock
- ☐ Names common coins and notes

YEAR 2 READINESS, CONTINUED

LEARNING HABITS AND WELLBEING

- ☐ Reads at home most days
- ☐ Packs their bag with a little reminder
- ☐ Keeps trying when something is tricky
- ☐ Can say how they feel in words
- ☐ Listens while others are talking

THREE THINGS TO TRY AT HOME

1. Take turns reading a page each.
2. Play shops with real coins and add up the total.
3. Keep a one sentence daily diary with a drawing.

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READY FOR YEAR 3?
A PARENT CHECKLIST

For children finishing Year 2 and moving into Year 3. Aligned to the Australian Curriculum Version 9. Use it to notice strengths and pick one or two things to practise.

ENGLISH

- ☐ Reads simple chapter books or longer picture books on their own
- ☐ Writes several connected sentences about one topic
- ☐ Spells common words correctly and has a go at new ones
- ☐ Uses capital letters, full stops and question marks
- ☐ Explains what they liked about a book and why

MATHEMATICS

- ☐ Reads, writes and orders three digit numbers
- ☐ Adds and subtracts two digit numbers using a strategy
- ☐ Knows doubles and halves of small numbers
- ☐ Skip counts by 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s
- ☐ Tells quarter past and quarter to

YEAR 3 READINESS, CONTINUED

LEARNING HABITS AND WELLBEING

- ☐ Sets out homework or reading with a little help
- ☐ Looks after their own belongings
- ☐ Asks a teacher or friend when stuck
- ☐ Is kind and fair in friendship groups
- ☐ Gets enough sleep to start the day ready

THREE THINGS TO TRY AT HOME

1. Read a chapter together and talk about what might happen next.
2. Double and halve recipe amounts while cooking.
3. Practise skip counting in the car or on a walk.

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READY FOR YEAR 4?
A PARENT CHECKLIST

For children finishing Year 3 and moving into Year 4. Aligned to the Australian Curriculum Version 9. Use it to notice strengths and pick one or two things to practise.

ENGLISH

- ☐ Reads chapter books fluently and with expression
- ☐ Writes a short piece with a beginning, middle and end
- ☐ Uses paragraphs to group ideas
- ☐ Checks and fixes spelling and punctuation in their own writing
- ☐ Finds key facts in a simple information text

MATHEMATICS

- ☐ Reads, writes and compares numbers into the thousands
- ☐ Recalls the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables and is building others
- ☐ Adds and subtracts with larger numbers
- ☐ Explains halves, quarters and eighths
- ☐ Reads time to the nearest five minutes

YEAR 4 READINESS, CONTINUED

LEARNING HABITS AND WELLBEING

- ☐ Completes homework with a simple routine
- ☐ Uses a diary or planner with support
- ☐ Keeps going when work feels hard
- ☐ Talks about worries with a trusted adult
- ☐ Balances screens, play and rest

THREE THINGS TO TRY AT HOME

1. Practise one times table for five minutes a day with a game.
2. Ask your child to write a short recount of the weekend.
3. Set up a regular homework spot and time.

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READY FOR YEAR 5?
A PARENT CHECKLIST

For children finishing Year 4 and moving into Year 5. Aligned to the Australian Curriculum Version 9. Use it to notice strengths and pick one or two things to practise.

ENGLISH

- ☐ Reads longer texts and explains the main idea
- ☐ Talks about how an author makes the reader feel
- ☐ Plans, writes and edits a text in paragraphs
- ☐ Uses interesting words and varied sentences
- ☐ Uses a dictionary or online tool to check spelling

MATHEMATICS

- ☐ Recalls multiplication facts to 10 x 10
- ☐ Multiplies and divides using a strategy
- ☐ Adds and subtracts larger numbers
- ☐ Compares and orders fractions
- ☐ Finds the perimeter of a simple shape

YEAR 5 READINESS, CONTINUED

LEARNING HABITS AND WELLBEING

- ☐ Plans homework across a week with some support
- ☐ Packs and checks their own bag
- ☐ Accepts feedback and tries again
- ☐ Handles friendship ups and downs with support
- ☐ Keeps a healthy sleep routine

THREE THINGS TO TRY AT HOME

1. Choose a novel or news story and chat about it for five minutes.
2. Use real life maths such as a budget for a family outing.
3. Plan the week on a family calendar together.

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READY FOR YEAR 6?
A PARENT CHECKLIST

For children finishing Year 5 and moving into Year 6. Aligned to the Australian Curriculum Version 9. Use it to notice strengths and pick one or two things to practise.

ENGLISH

- ☐ Reads and understands information texts and stories
- ☐ Gives an opinion and backs it up with reasons from the text
- ☐ Writes an organised text for a clear purpose
- ☐ Edits their own work for clarity and punctuation
- ☐ Speaks clearly when sharing ideas with a group

MATHEMATICS

- ☐ Solves problems using the four operations with larger numbers
- ☐ Recalls number facts and multiplication facts with ease
- ☐ Works with fractions and decimals
- ☐ Finds area and perimeter
- ☐ Explains how they solved a problem

YEAR 6 READINESS, CONTINUED

LEARNING HABITS AND WELLBEING

- ☐ Manages homework and due dates with a planner
- ☐ Takes responsibility for their belongings
- ☐ Asks for help when needed
- ☐ Feels confident about being a senior in the school
- ☐ Talks about feelings and stays connected with friends

THREE THINGS TO TRY AT HOME

1. Ask them to explain a news story or topic to you.
2. Give them a real world maths job, such as working out change or scaling a recipe.
3. Let them lead a small project and plan the steps.

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BONUS: GETTING READY FOR YEAR 7

READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

- ☐ Visit or attend the high school orientation day
- ☐ Talk about what feels exciting and what feels worrying
- ☐ Practise packing the bag from a timetable
- ☐ Set up a weekly planner for homework and due dates
- ☐ Practise the trip to school
- ☐ Keep reading for fun for around 20 minutes a day
- ☐ Protect sleep, meals and downtime

Details vary between schools, so use your child's school information as your guide.

Want a hand? Education Help offers a 30 minute Online Consultation. Visit educationhelp.com.au.