

- “Help me to make lines on a picture that go across, up and down, and round and round. Let me hold pens and pencils, and try drawing and painting on paper. Put some up on the wall to decorate it.”
- “Teach me how to dress myself and put on my coat and shoes. Show me how you put your coat on, and give me a coat with simple fastenings so I can manage them myself.”

LET'S STAY SAFE

- “Show me how to climb stairs safely. Talk to me about staying safe and offer chances to do things safely. A visit to an outdoor playground is perfect to practise safe running, jumping and climbing.”
- “Check with the GP that all my immunisations (often called preschool boosters) are up to date. If you have any concerns about my health or development, chat to the Health Visitor.”

Children who have started to practise these simple skills at home have a better chance of focusing on learning when they start school.

Visit manchester.gov.uk/readytolearn for more tips and advice about preparing your child to start school.

Get ready to learn in Manchester



Children learn and grow through playing, exploring, being active and creative, and by being asked questions to help their thinking.

Children go to school or nursery at different ages with different abilities – your teacher will help your child to progress at their own pace.

Use this guide to help support your child in their next steps to learning. There are lots of things you can practise with them at home to give them the best start when they join their new classmates.

Chatting with your child about school in a positive way in the time leading up to them starting can help them feel less worried. Why not pin the plan on this leaflet at home and work through it over time with your child, rewarding them with a tick or a sticker when they reach a goal? They do not have to be able to do all these things by the time they start school, but it can be helpful to practise.

LET'S PLAY

- “When we are sharing a book or playing with toys, ask questions starting with what, where and who. Play with me and share games. Use imagination to tell stories and sit and read a book with me, looking at the pictures and talking about the story.”
- “Encourage me to join in with singing songs and rhymes. Take me to Story Time sessions at the local library, where they'll teach us a few simple songs to practise at home.”

LET'S GET READY

- “Follow routines so I will be able to do things in and the reasons why.”
- “Teach me to use the toilet on my own, wipe myself and wash my hands. Explain why washing hands is important.”
- “Watch me pour a drink from a small jug and use cutlery to feed myself. Give me a small jug and a cup with no lid that I can play with and feed my toys.”
- “Teach me to react to my name and recognise my name in print. Show me my name and point out the letters. Talk about all the letters of the alphabet, and things at home and outside that begin with those letters.”

LET'S EXPLORE

- “Talk to me about how I am feeling and show me what my needs are. Talk about your own feelings and ask about mine – ask me what I am looking forward to and what I am unsure about. Help me to understand how my feelings and actions are connected.”
- “Encourage me to talk using three and four-word sentences about what I am doing. Talk to me about what we are playing with and what we are doing. Talk to me when we are outside about what our plans are and what is happening next.”
- “Help me to understand simple ideas, such as ‘big’ and ‘little’, and ‘hot’ and ‘cold’. Tell me about things we see together and help me to describe things and feelings we can't see.”

Getting ready for school plan

"I can play with other children and take turns."



Sometimes All the time

"I can talk about how I am feeling and what my needs are."



Sometimes All the time

"I can follow a routine – like getting ready for bed."



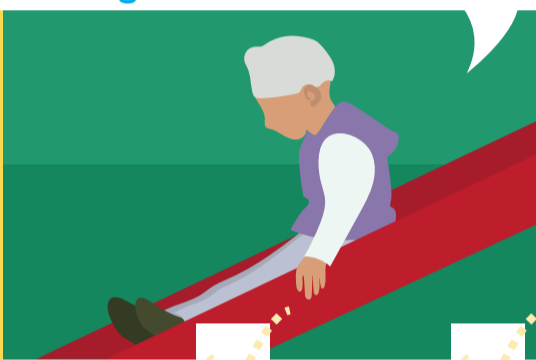
Sometimes All the time

"I can safely climb up and down the stairs."



Sometimes All the time

"I know how to play safely, like when I'm running, jumping and climbing outside."



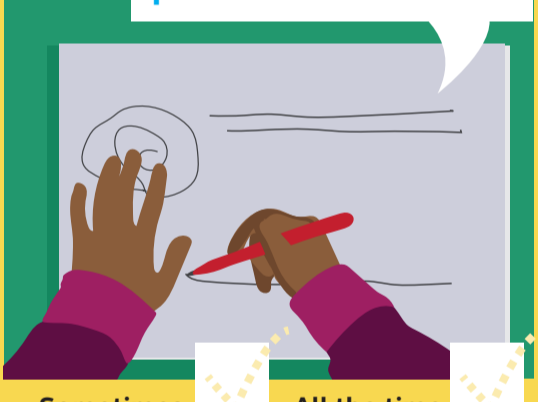
Sometimes All the time

"I can pour myself a drink and feed myself."



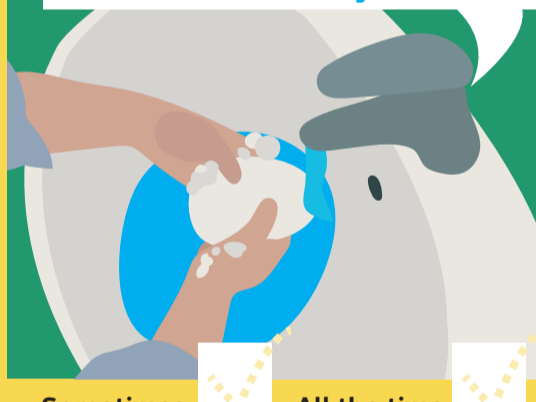
Sometimes All the time

"I can hold a pen or pencil and draw."



Sometimes All the time

"I can use the toilet on my own and wash my hands."



Sometimes All the time

"I can put on and take off my coat."



Sometimes All the time

"I can put on and take off my shoes."



Sometimes All the time

"I can join in with singing songs and rhyming."



Sometimes All the time

"I recognise my name when someone says it or it's written down."



Sometimes All the time

"I understand ideas like 'big' and 'little', and 'hot' and 'cold'."



Sometimes All the time

"I can use sentences and explain what I am doing."



Sometimes All the time

"I can sit and listen to a story, ask questions about it and use my imagination."



Sometimes All the time