

## What should my child be able to do when he/she starts school?

Children should have basic abilities to ensure that they are able to make a good start at school. This doesn't mean that your child needs to be able to read and write already. It is about having a good basis for a successful school career.

What is important?

- Fixed structure to the day
- Fixed place to study
- Motoric abilities (e.g. balance, catching, throwing)
- Basics in numeracy, reading, writing and speaking



Having a fixed structure to the day helps your child to make a good start to their school career. This means that before starting school, you should practice getting up early, packing the school bag and the walking route to school, together with your child. Then your child will find it easier later. Make sure that your child gets enough sleep.

If possible, set up a fixed workplace (writing desk) where your child can study at home. The child should be able to study and do homework in peace there. The place should be tidy and comfortable. It's best if there is nothing nearby that could distract the child (e.g. TV, mobile phone). It can also be helpful for your child to learn to how to handle the materials he/she needs for school (scissors, paintbox etc) before starting school.

Motoric abilities (= agility) are also important for a successful school career. They help the child to learn to write. You can support your child's development by helping him/her to do crafts, kneading or sport.

Starting school is usually easier for children if they have some basic ability in numeracy and language, such as:

- being able to count from 1 to 10
- being able to recognise dice images (e.g. the number of dots on dice)
- being able to name shapes (circle, rectangle, square)
- being able to relate facts in the child's native language
- being able to write his/her own name
- being able to recognise image sequences (e.g. from an orange to orange juice)



You can read your child stories or sing songs together to learn these basic abilities. In this way, your child comes into contact with letters and learns new words. When you climb steps with your child, you can count the steps out loud. Or you can encourage your child to draw shapes and name them (e.g. "A house is a square with a triangle on top as the roof").

### More tips:

- Motivate your child to read. This can also be in the child's native language.
- Your child doesn't need to be able to do everything immediately. Don't worry if your child's writing or reading doesn't go so well at the beginning. Encourage your child to keep trying.
- Everyone has bad days sometimes, including children. Recognise these days and be patient with your child.