

# Starting Reception

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is Starting Reception?

The [Starting Reception definition](#) sets out the personal, social, emotional and physical skills that most children will develop by the time they start school. The definition has been created to help parents, caregivers and early years professionals involved in looking after young children get them ready to start school.

The definition is backed by Government and was developed by a unique collaboration of leading early years organisations. It represents the biggest combined effort yet to improve 'school readiness' across the country.

### 2. What resources are available to support local authorities, schools, nurseries and families?

The [Starting Reception website](#) includes a number of supporting resources including a downloadable version, translated versions, links to information and guidance on helping children develop each of the key skills and customisable marketing assets such as flyers and posters.

### 3. Who is Starting Reception designed for?

The definition and supporting resources have been designed for use by local authorities, nurseries, schools, parents and other early years professionals (eg. childminders, grandparents, speech and language therapists etc...)

### 4. Is Starting Reception suitable for children with SEND?

Yes. The taskforce which developed the definition included SEND experts and organisations including Dingley's Promise  
[Dingley's Promise - Homepage](#)

### 5. Is Starting Reception the same as School Readiness?

Some people refer to the key skills that schools expect children to have when they start school as 'school readiness'. This definition is called Starting Reception.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## 6. Is Starting Reception available in other languages?

Yes. The website is currently available in seven other languages. You can switch between languages using the dropdown menu in the top right corner of the website. ([startingreception.co.uk](http://startingreception.co.uk)).

## 7. Have you got an example of how Starting Reception can be used?

We've had an unprecedented response to the launch of Starting Reception, with huge interest and uptake from local authorities and schools right across the country. Read the case studies online for more detail - [Starting Reception | Case Studies](#).

## 8. How can my organisation show our support Starting Reception?

**There are lots of ways that you can support Starting Reception:**

- Use our [Communication toolkit](#) to help promote Starting Reception to your networks
- [Share your organisation's logo with us](#), so we can include it in the 'Supported By' section of our website
- Add links to Starting Reception to relevant pages of your website
- Get in touch if you are aware of any events that we could present Starting Reception at [contact@startingreception.co.uk](mailto:contact@startingreception.co.uk)



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## Useful quotes

**Stephen Morgan, Minister for Early Education:** 'Improving school readiness is the cornerstone of our Plan for Change, because we know giving children the best start in life is vital to break the unfair link between background and opportunity. This new website [Starting Reception], developed by experts across the early years sector, offers families clear, trusted advice on building key skills through everyday routines and play. It is a great example of the remarkable expertise and dedication across this sector. Their work, alongside that of parents, is instrumental in helping children grow, thrive and take those first steps into school with confidence'

**Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education:** 'Giving every child the best start in life is my top priority, and is a cornerstone of our Plan for Change which will ensure tens of thousands more children are school ready by the end of the parliament. Children arriving at school without the skills they need not only limits their opportunities, but the opportunities of every child in that classroom. That's why we have already started urgent work on new school-based nurseries, extending early learning support, and strengthening join-up of family services – but this issue can't be tackled by government alone. This new resource will be a vital tool for parents as they navigate the myriad information out there to support their child's early development, and it's brilliant to see Kindred Squared and the wider sector coming together on something so central to children's life chances.'

**Felicity Gillespie, Director, Kindred Squared:** 'Our annual school readiness reports consistently highlight a persistent problem. There is a deeply worrying gap between what teachers expect children starting in Reception to be able to handle from day one when compared with what parents say their children are able to do. Too many parents say they don't know what sorts of skills their children should be developing prior to starting school or where to go for help. I'm delighted this partnership of leading education groups and charities is trying to close that information gap to ensure all children get an equal start from their very first day at school. We want to see official backing for this new definition and for it to become the definition adopted by every local authority, primary school and early education and childcare setting in the UK as well as parents and carers. This new definition, backed by many leading experts and trusted partners, will help parents and carers ensure their children reach school readiness milestones so that they can be confident they are ready to start school and thrive from day one.'

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## Useful quotes

**Molly Devlin, Director of Early Years at Ark Start:** 'The Starting Reception website is an important resource for parents and carers, with clear, practical guidance on what starting school involves and how to help children feel confident and ready. At Ark Start, we work very closely with families and see the positive impact that the right support at the right time can make.'

**Catherine McLeod, Chief Executive of Dingley's Promise:** 'We are delighted that the 'Starting Reception' definition considers the needs of children with SEND and their families. As an organisation which supports children with SEND in the early years, we are acutely aware of the importance of taking a collaborative approach. Sharing information around developmental progress and needs ensures that education settings are ready to support children, and helps parents with the vital preparation of key skills in the home.'

**Jason Elsom, Chief Executive of Parentkind:** 'Starting school is a big moment for any child but it's a big moment for parents too. We wanted to make sure the voice of parents was heard loud and clear in a new national definition of what it means to be school ready. Experts, including those at Parentkind, have come together to work out what children do and don't need to know before they start school. Most importantly, parents have had their say on this new definition of school readiness. It's not a standardised test, every child is different and not every child will be able to achieve everything set out in this new definition at the same time, but the most important thing is we help parents understand what will help their child thrive when they begin at school.'

# Starting Reception

## Frequently Asked Questions for Multi-Academy Trusts

### 1. What is Starting Reception?

The Starting Reception definition sets out the personal, social, emotional and physical skills that most children will develop by the time they start school. The definition has been created to help parents, caregivers and early years professionals involved in looking after young children get them ready to start school.

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### 2. What resources are available to support local authorities, schools, nurseries and families?

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### 3. How are other schools and academy trusts using Starting Reception?

**Schools and Trusts that are already using Starting Reception in a range of ways, including:**

- Adopting 'Starting Reception' as their official definition, ensuring that everyone has the same understanding and expectation of the skills needed to start school successfully
- using it as the basis of staff training around the importance of the key skills outlined in the definition
- sharing the list of Starting Reception skills with new families at welcome and induction meetings and on home visits
- discussing the definition with and articulating the importance of the key skills outlined within it with local nurseries and pre-schools.



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([startingreception.co.uk](https://startingreception.co.uk))

## 5. Can I put my Academy / School logo on the definition and resources?

Yes. You can personalise the Starting Reception resource by adding your own school logo and linking to local support services.

Instructions on how to do this are available [here](#).

## 6. What resources are available to help me promote Starting Reception to colleagues and families?

We've created a [suite of printable, customisable resources](#) to help you share Starting Reception. These include:

- An A5 flyer
- An A3 poster
- An A5 leaflet

Each can be co-branded with your logo and is ready for digital or print use.

