

A Guide for Schools: Ready, Steady, Reception

The 50 Things to Do Before You're Five, Ready, Steady, Reception, is a practical tool to support children's transition into school. By encouraging children to build everyday skills such as communication, managing change and self-care through playful activities, it helps them feel confident and ready to take on the routines and social expectations of Reception. The seven chosen activities also support the development of fine motor skills, self-regulation and mark making, further supporting children's readiness for school.

What is the point?

The booklet also serves as a valuable tool for strengthening partnerships with parents. By encouraging families to engage with the activities and guidance provided, you are supporting a shared understanding of children's development and helping to create a familiar, shared experience for both children and families as they start school, which can often feel daunting.

As children begin Reception, this resource can help you build on what they have already experienced at home, while also creating opportunities to share and celebrate their learning journeys together.

How to launch the booklet in your school

- **Host a story sharing transition event:** Invite families and their children to join a story sharing session in the summer term, whilst modelling opportunities for parents to continue story sharing interactions with their children at home.
- **Introduce the booklet:** Gift the booklet to new Reception parents at your story sharing event.
- **Explore the suggested supporting resources:** We have put together a suggested list of supporting resources that you could explore funding perhaps with your PTA, to share with parents.
- **Encourage feedback:** Invite parents to share how they've used the booklet and any observations about their child's progress. Share this with your Early Years Adviser.
- **Link to ongoing learning:** Use the booklet as a conversation starter in the first weeks of Reception to learn about children's prior experiences and support a smooth transition.
- **Share the settings guide with feeders:** That way they will know what is happening and can support families who need further direction.
- **Involve staff in promotion:** Ensure all staff are familiar with the booklet so they can answer questions and encourage its use.

The seven exciting activities

- #10 Sharing Books.
- #16 Just Outside Your Door.
- #19 Growing Little People, Plants and Things.
- #20 Mini Artists.
- #36 Ready Steady Blow.
- #37 Postie.
- #45 Wonderful Waiting Games.



Download the free app or explore the translatable webpage.

Get involved

Practitioner support and guidance on [Supporting Home Learning](#). Includes definitions, initiatives and training



Department for Education guidance on [Supporting a Smooth Transition into Reception](#), and [Getting children ready for Reception](#). Size: 1,667KB File format: pdf



National Literacy Trust [Embedding the Home Learning Environment](#) guide.



[50 Things to Do Before You're Five](#) resources for schools and settings, including posters and guides.

