

Support your child's independent skills by doing the following:

- Going to the toilet independently. Encourage the children to wipe themselves.
- Getting dressed. Avoid clothing with fiddly buckles and buttons.
- Putting on shoes. Tie-up shoes might be a bit difficult. Go for shoes with Velcro fasteners if possible.
- Eating. This includes using a knife and fork, opening their lunchbox, and being able to open items in their lunchbox.
- Solving simple problems. Encourage your child to resolve problems by talking
  when they don't understand, or something isn't going well. It is important that
  they also learn when to ask an adult for help.
- Help them recognise their name.
- Share stories. Reading to your child promotes a love of reading and helps improve their vocabulary and listening skills. Also, acting out stories is a great way to practise communication.
- Develop fine motor skills. Building hand strength, fine motor skills, and hand-eye co-ordination helps prepare your child for writing. Making Lego models, using scissors, and threading beads onto string are fun ways to develop hand strength.
- Drawing and colouring activities introduces your child to mark-making tools.
- Introduce them to numbers. Why not go on a number hunt around your local area and take pictures of any numbers you find? You could also share counting songs together or count objects as you set the table for dinner. Can your child get five forks or three cups out? Can they share them between members of the family?
- Share and take turns. You can encourage this through activities like family board games and giving your child opportunities to play with other children.