

# 2025 School Readiness Survey



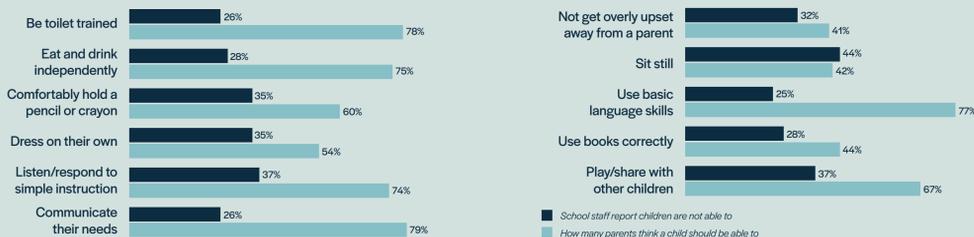
To understand what school readiness looked like in the September 2025 Reception cohort, we conducted focus groups and surveyed more than 1,000 primary school staff and 1,000 parents of Reception children.

This research was conducted by Savanta on behalf of Kindred.

## 2025 research has shown a significant increase in the proportion of children not school ready, from:



There is a notable gap between parent and primary school staff perceptions of school readiness:



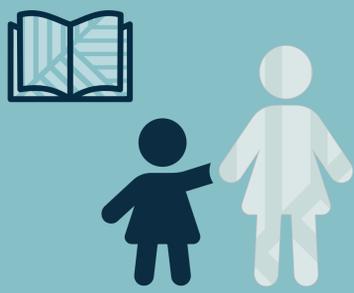
**Over half (52%)** of primary school staff tell us that the school readiness problem is worse than last year.

**Missing 2.4 hours per day** As a result, primary school staff now say that children are missing out on teaching time due to teachers helping children catch up with developmental milestones.

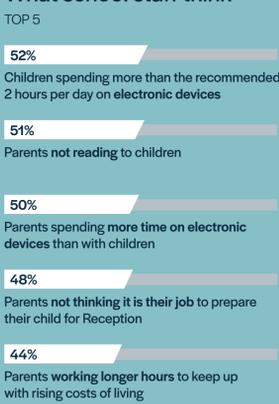


## Why aren't children ready for school?

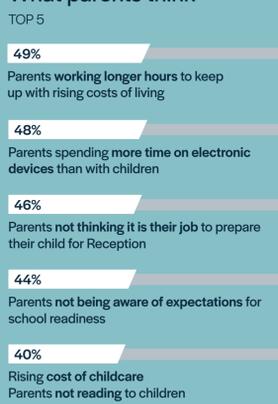
School staff and parents were asked why they thought children starting Reception in 2025 weren't ready for school.



### What school staff think

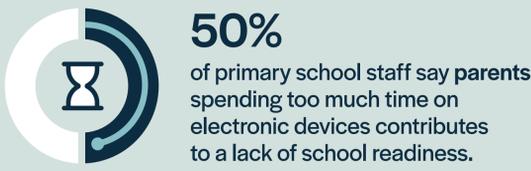


### What parents think

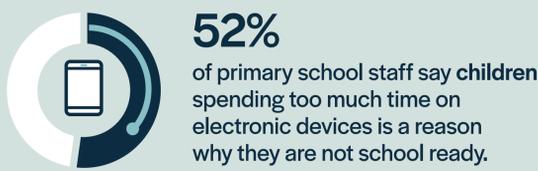


## The impact of screen time and reading

The top three most selected factors resulting in children not being school ready relate to screen time and reading, according to primary school staff. Parents also note the impact of parents spending too long on electronic devices, but are less likely to recognise the impact of children spending too much time on screens.



**48%** of parents agree.



**36%** of parents agree.



**40%** of parents.

## Parents were asked which key skills they feel least confident helping their children learn

Top 5

**28%** Not get overly upset away from parents

**27%** Be able to sit still

**17%** Be able to dress on their own

**15%** Be able to listen/respond to simple instructions

**15%** Be toilet trained

**77%** of parents say they know what skills and behaviours their child needs to start Reception

**70%** say it is clear what is expected of children when they start Reception

**45%** say they feel under pressure to make sure their child is 'school ready'

## Toilet training

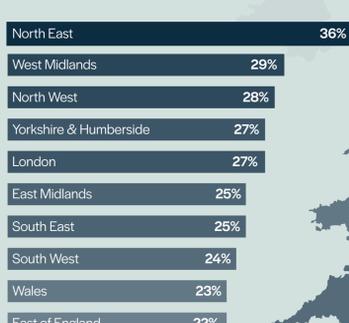


### 1.4 hours per day

Of the 2.4 hours of teaching time lost per day, primary school staff say 1.4 hours are lost dealing with children who are not toilet trained.

**55%** of teachers say that half or fewer of children who start Reception not toilet trained are unlikely to achieve a Good Level of Development.

## % of children not toilet trained by region



## What would help?

When asked what would help more parents in the UK ensure their child is ready for Reception, parents chose a range of state-based, school-based, and parental-based solutions to school readiness:

Top 5

**48%** More affordable nurseries & childcare

**47%** Greater information for parents on the definition and importance of school readiness (e.g. information package)

**42%** Less time spent by parents on electronic devices when they are with their children

**39%** Less time spent by children on electronic devices

**38%** Increased access to children's centres & family hubs

Parent orientation for Reception scheduled 4-6 weeks in advance



**There is disagreement about the quality and quantity of information.**

While 77% of parents think they get the right information and 69% think they get enough information, just 53% of teachers think they get the right information and 47% think they get enough information.

**Parents want information earlier.**

84% want to receive information about expected skills and behaviours a year or more before their child starts Reception.

