

# Entering the first grade



School maturity (readiness) is understood as the child's ability to react to the requirements imposed upon their personality in the first stages of school education. These requirements are geared towards the child's physical, intellectual, social and moral personality.

School maturity that is tested before entering the first grade include:

- a) **physical readiness**: the child's stage of overall physical development and their health (immunity, strength, spine...)
- b) **intellectual readiness**: differentiated awareness in both visual and acoustic field, the child is capable of differentiating the phonetic and visual spectrum of a word, development of logical thinking (even though it is still connected with concrete objects and actions), ability to analyze and divide a whole into individual parts (reading, writing and math literacy is also assumed)
- c) **perceptive readiness**: this is reflected in the development of the child's drawings that are more detailed and more faithful representations of the given object. This is closely connected with the development of the child's fine motor skill, graphic development and coordination in terms of senses

d) **emotional readiness**: emotional stability and the reduction of impulsive reactions in the child's behavior, positive attitude towards learning, school work and an independent approach to goal-based games aimed at independent work.

d) **social readiness**: child accepts its social roles and is able to manage simple social situations in school, shows the need to be socially involved with their peers and other people, cooperate, conform to the group and authority of the teacher and to cope with the detachment from the mother and relatives.

These factors are assessed by a doctor (psychologist) and a close cooperation and overall assessment of the child must be made, since there can be a number of discrepancies between the individual aspects of the child's school maturity and readiness. Before entering the first grade, inner and outer readiness is assessed, with a focus on the speech of the child, their communicational skills and boldness. The tasks imposed upon the child may include the following:

- drawing of a figure
- singing a song, reciting a poem
- identifying colors
- identifying space and time relations
- recognizing geometrical shapes and terms like 'up down left right'
- enumerating objects, comparing

The tasks may take on different forms but their content is identical. Experienced teachers will adjust the speed of testing according to the child's individual needs.