Is able to work independently on most tasks

Building independence in the early years creates a path for lifelong learning. Being independent also supports children to develop their own unique personalities. The benefits of being independent for children can include them becoming more decisive, confident, motivated, and resilient.

Typical development

3 to 4 year olds will be learning to:	Children can select and use activities and resources, with help when needed. They develop their sense of responsibility and membership of community.

How can practitioners support building children's work independently?

- Consider your continuous provision. Do children have access to a variety of activities and resources relevant to their current interests and stage of development.
- Do adults provide opportunities and resources within the continuous provision to extend children's learning? E.g. props/puppets to support independent story telling.
- Do you support all children using a total communication environment – e.g. first/then boards, visual routines, choice boards?
- Do you have opportunities for children's play to continue following a daily transition? e.g. child can return to same activity following snack time.
- To increase children's attention on activities do you use a timer, so they know how long to stay for- build this up over time.
- Does the child understand your request? Do you show children what is expected from them?
- Do you offer lots of positive reinforcement, for example 'good problem solving, good listening, good sharing'?
- Do you give children tasks during the day for example tidying up a table, giving out snack plates or cups?

Useful resources

- If setting need Total communication training, please contact the Early Years advice line - Early Year's Service - Early Year's Service (gloucestershire.gov.uk)
- How to Build Independence in Preschoolers - Child Mind Institute
- Promoting independence | Enabling Environments | Teach Early Years