

Singapore life-skills ladder

Everyday skills to try at home and around the neighbourhood, from the hawker centre to the MRT.

Tick a skill when you have practised it together.

Ages are rough guides

Start on any rung. Some children climb fast, some skip a step and come back. Neither is good or bad.

Practise, don't test

Do it together a few times, then let your child lead while you stay close. Praise the trying.

One or two at a time

Pick one or two skills a month. Write the date you practised, not a mark.

① Ages 3 to 4: Little helper

Done	Skill to try	We practised on
☐	Take shoes off at the door and put them on the rack	
☐	Wash hands with soap before meals	
☐	Put toys back in the box after play	
☐	Carry their own water bottle on an outing	
☐	Say "thank you, auntie" or "uncle" at the hawker stall	
☐	Hold a grown-up's hand in the car park and on the road	

② Ages 5 to 6: Getting ready for P1

Done	Skill to try	We practised on
☐	Pack their preschool bag from a picture checklist	
☐	Pour their own water and clear their own plate	
☐	Order and pay for one item at the hawker centre, with you beside them Good practice for the P1 canteen	
☐	Say a parent's full name and phone number	
☐	Stop at the kerb, then cross at the green man holding your hand	
☐	Tap their child concession card at the MRT gantry Under 7 and taller than 0.9 m: a Child Concession Card lets them ride basic bus and train services free	

③ Ages 7 to 8: P1 and P2

Done	Skill to try	We practised on
☐	Buy food at the school canteen and check the change	
☐	Tap their own student concession card on the bus and MRT P1 pupils get it by 31 March; until then the child card works to 30 April of the year they turn 7	
☐	Pack their school bag from the timetable the night before	
☐	Make a simple breakfast, such as bread and kaya	
☐	Borrow a library book at the self-service machine	
☐	Fold their own clothes and put them away	

Life-skills ladder: P3 to P6

Bigger steps for older children. Your family decides when a child is ready to go out without you.

4 Ages 9 to 10: P3 and P4

Done	Skill to try	We practised on
☐	Read the MRT map and signs to plan a family outing	
☐	Read the bus stop sign: which bus, which direction	
☐	Use the microwave or a kettle with you nearby	
☐	Wash their own school shoes	
☐	Keep to a small pocket-money plan for a week	
☐	Say what they would do if lost: find station or shop staff, then call home	

5 Ages 11 to 12: P5 and P6

Done	Skill to try	We practised on
☐	Take a familiar bus or MRT route, as your family decides	
☐	Cook a simple dish, such as fried rice or eggs, with you nearby	
☐	Buy groceries from a short list at the supermarket or wet market	
☐	Phone or message to ask a simple question, such as library opening hours	
☐	Keep their own homework planner and CCA things in order	
☐	Plan one family outing: route, time and budget	

6 Our own skills

Done	Skill to try	We practised on
☐		
☐		
☐		

A ladder to climb together, not a checklist to pass. It does not grade your child or say what they should manage by any age. Chores live on the family responsibilities chart; this ladder is about skills.

Sources, checked 18 October 2026: SimplyGo, Child concessionary fares (children under seven taller than 0.9 m need a Child Concession Card to travel free on basic bus and train services); MOE, Student concession card, parliamentary reply (5 April 2022). Links: raisingangels.sg/downloads/singapore-life-skills-ladder/