

FREE PARENT GUIDE

YanBo 11+ Guide for Parents

The essentials for effective, balanced 11+ preparation

First, check the exact exam your child will sit. The 11+ is not one national test. Subjects, timings, question styles and admissions arrangements vary by school and area. Use the official information for your target school(s) as your starting point.

What usually matters most

English

Reading, vocabulary, comprehension, grammar and punctuation.

Maths

Secure core skills plus multi-step reasoning and problem solving.

Verbal Reasoning

Word relationships, sequences, codes and vocabulary-based logic.

Non-Verbal Reasoning

Patterns, rotations, reflections and spatial reasoning.

Five principles that make the biggest difference

- 1 Know the format.** Prepare for the test your child will actually sit, not a generic version of the 11+.
- 2 Accuracy before speed.** Build secure methods and careful reading first; introduce time pressure gradually.
- 3 Practise little and often.** Short, focused sessions are usually more productive than occasional long bursts.
- 4 Review mistakes.** A score tells you how they performed. The mistakes tell you what to work on next.
- 5 Protect confidence.** Challenge is useful; constant pressure is not. Keep preparation proportionate and sustainable.

A simple preparation routine

Use this as a flexible framework, not a rigid timetable.

Quality beats quantity. Thirty focused minutes with proper review can be more valuable than an hour of rushed questions.

A balanced week might include

English	Reading, vocabulary, comprehension and language skills.
Maths	Core fluency followed by reasoning and multi-step problems.
VR / NVR	Short targeted sessions on patterns, codes, relationships and spatial skills.
Review	Return to mistakes, explain the correct method and retry without help.
Timed practice	A short timed section or mock-style activity once your child is ready.

After every practice paper

1. Identify the mistake

Knowledge gap, misreading, weak method, poor timing or careless error?

2. Read the explanation

Understand why the right answer works.

3. Retry without support

A correct second attempt is more useful than simply seeing the answer.

4. Revisit later

Check a few days later that the learning has stuck.

When should timing begin?

Do not time everything from the start. Build accuracy first, then add short timed sections, longer papers and full mocks. The goal is controlled speed - not rushing.

Mock tests, exam technique and parent support

Teach these exam habits

Read the instruction first. Do not assume every section works in the same way.

Skip and return. One difficult question should not consume several easier ones.

Transfer answers carefully. If an answer sheet is used, practise using it before exam day.

Watch the time calmly. Children should know roughly where they need to be without checking the clock every minute.

Use final minutes wisely. Return to flagged questions and check for skipped answers.

How parents can help

Praise the process, not only the mark. Good habits, persistence and careful corrections matter.

Look for trends. One poor paper is not a diagnosis. Use several weeks of evidence.

Avoid comparisons. A sibling, classmate or online score tells you little about your own child's next step.

Protect sleep and downtime. Preparation works better when normal family life still exists.

Finish on confidence. In the final days, consolidate familiar skills rather than creating panic with last-minute overload.

Quick readiness checklist

- ☐ I know the exact format used by our target school(s).
- ☐ My child has covered the main skills they will be tested on.
- ☐ We know their stronger and weaker areas.
- ☐ They have practised timed work and realistic mock conditions.
- ☐ They know what to do when they get stuck.
- ☐ We regularly review mistakes rather than only recording scores.

Need structured 11+ practice?

YanBo provides English, Maths, VR and NVR practice, custom tests, timed mock exams, detailed answer explanations and progress tracking.

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