

Is my child ready for Kindergarten?

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Children grow and mature at different rates. Not all children of the same age are ready for school at the same time. Children who enter school with a wide range of skills and knowledge tend to be more successful in school. There is no perfect formula that determines when children are truly ready for Kindergarten; you can use this checklist to help you look at your child's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. This checklist includes items that are important to your child's success in kindergarten.

Self Help/Social Skills:

- Can use the bathroom independently
- Can use a tissue properly
- Can pack and unpack backpack
- Can dress self (button, zipper, snap, put on coat)
- Can follow two-step directions independently
- Can stay on "teacher directed" task for 10 minutes
- Can follow classroom rules
- Can share and play cooperatively with others
- Can take care of toys and school materials
- Can control self
- Show respect for adults and peers
- Can participate in group activities with control
- Can separate from parents by appearing comfortable and secure without parents

Fine/Gross Motor Skills:

- Can use proper pencil grip
- Can cut with scissors
- Can trace basic shapes
- Can put together a simple puzzle



Language/Literacy Skills:

- Can recognize, write, point to, and identify letters in first name
- Can speak in complete sentences
- Does your child listen to you read stories?
- Looks at books on own and can turn pages
- Recognizes many uppercase & lowercase letters and some sounds
- Can identify two words that rhyme
- Uses symbols or drawings to express ideas other than scribbling

Mathematics:

- Can count to 10
- Can do one-to-one correspondence
- Can recognize simple patterns (ex: red, blue, red, blue)
- Knows the difference between letters and numbers
- Identifies shapes
- Identifies basic colors

Please remember that all children develop at different times. Kindergarten is a very structured setting and your child needs to be ready. The best thing you can do for your child is to give them the gift of time if they're not socially and emotionally ready! This checklist is an indicator, not a sure thing. Keep in mind the best interest of your child when completing this checklist.

"Childhood is a journey, not a race!"