



THINGS YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO KNOW BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Here is a list of kindergarten readiness skills based loosely upon a preschool inventory given to children at the very end of a pre-kindergarten program. This is used as both a guiding document as well as an assessment at the end of the year.

Please keep in mind as you look over this list that children learn best with hands-on experiences, *not memorization or drill practice!* These early years with our children should be about fostering a love to play, explore and learn! Also, it is important to note that our children are *all different* and gifted in unique ways. Understand that each child develops at their own pace and will have different levels of skills upon entering kindergarten. Obviously, if your child has special needs, exceptionalism, or is delayed in a particular area, this won't necessarily be relevant to your child. This is simply a guide...not something to stress about!

Finally, all areas of development are of equal importance to young children! Gross motor and social development tasks are just as important as cognitive and pre-reading tasks at this age. Also, it is important to note that there is no prerequisite (besides age) for children to go to kindergarten here in the United States. Although it would be ideal for each child to come into kindergarten already mastering these skills, this is obviously not the reality for many children. Schools are prepared to meet the needs of individual students, regardless of their current ability.

Have fun learning together through games and various experiences while still encouraging your child's natural creativity!

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

LEARNING

- Shows an eagerness to learn and age-appropriate curiosity
- Persists in completing a task and is willing to ask for help if needed
- Exemplifies a pleasant and cooperative personality

SELF-CONTROL

- Follows rules and routines
- Manages transitions (going from one activity to the next)
- Demonstrates normal activity level
- Focuses on one activity for at least 10 minutes
- Plays independently
- Manages restroom needs independently
- Dresses self independently (i.e. puts on own coat, takes shoes off and puts them on independently)
- Can zip, unzip, button, and snap
- Meets their own needs (i.e. washes hands when dirty or before eating, uses Kleenex when needed, coughs/sneezes into elbow)
- Cares for own personal belongings
- Knows and identifies basic body parts

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS

- Interacts easily with one or more children
- Interacts easily with familiar adults
- Separates from parents easily
- Participates in group activities
- Plays well with others
- Takes turns and shares
- Cleans up after play

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- Seeks adult help when needed
- Uses words to resolve conflict
- Suggests solutions to social problems

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

LISTENING

- Listens attentively and understands directions and conversations
- Listens to story without interruption
- Follows one and two-step directions

SPEAKING

- Speaks clearly and can be easily understood without the need for contextual clues
- Speaks using complete sentences
- Can state first and last name, age, address or town, and phone number
- Can sequence events in an oral conversation
- Understand and uses positional, directional, size, and comparison words correctly

LITERATURE AND READING

- Listens with interest to stories read aloud
- Shows interest in reading-related activities
- Retells information from a story
- Makes predictions and comments about a story being read
- Sequences three pictures to tell a logical story
- Shows awareness of language sounds (i.e. rhyming, hearing beginning and ending sounds)

WRITING

- Uses pictures to communicate ideas
- Scribbles, draws shapes, or attempts to create letter-like symbols to write words or ideas
- Prints first name

ALPHABET KNOWLEDGE

- Recites/sings alphabet
- Recognizes first and last name in print
- Identifies upper-case letters
- Identifies lower-case letters
- Matches upper-case letters to the lower-case letter counterpart

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: MATHEMATICAL THINKING

PATTERNS AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Sorts by color, shape, and size
- Orders or classifies several objects on the basis of one attribute (i.e. “size”– small, medium, large)
- Recognizes simple patterns and duplicates them (i.e. circle, square, circle, square)

NUMBER CONCEPT AND OPERATIONS

- Rote counts to 20
- Demonstrates one-to-one correspondence when counting 10 objects
- Matches oral numbers to their written numerals
- Identifies numerals 0-10

GEOMETRY AND SPATIAL RELATIONS

- Identifies 4 shapes- circle, square, rectangle, triangle
- Demonstrates concepts of positional/directional concepts (up/down, over/under, in/out, behind/in front of, beside/between, top/bottom, inside/outside, above/below, high/low, right/left, off/on, first/last, far/near, go/stop).

MEASUREMENT

- Shows understanding of and uses comparative words (big/little, large/small, short/long, tall/short, slow/fast, few/many, empty/full, less/more).
- Shows understanding of the concept less and more

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

GROSS-MOTOR SKILLS

- Pedals and steers a tricycle
- Jumps in place, landing on two feet
- Jumps consecutively- 7 jumps
- Balances on one foot for 5 seconds
- Hops on one foot 2-3 hops
- Hops on one foot- 6 ft.
- Throws a ball with direction- 5 ft.
- Bounces a ball
- Catches a thrown ball with arms and body
- Climbs a playground ladder
- Skips smoothly for 20 feet

FINE-MOTOR SKILLS

- Stacks 10 small blocks
- Strings large beads
- Completes a seven-piece interlocking puzzle
- Makes a pancake, snake, and ball from playdough
- Grasps pencil correctly (i.e. proper pencil grip)
- Copies: vertical line, horizontal line, circle, cross, square, V, triangle
- Grasps scissors correctly
- Cuts within 1/4" of a straight line
- Cuts out a small square, triangle, and circle
- Uses a glue stick appropriately
- Uses appropriate amount of glue for tasks

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: THE ARTS

CREATIVE ARTS

- Identifies 10 colors: red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple, black, white, brown, pink
- Uses a variety of art materials for tactile experience and exploration (paint, crayons, markers, clay, etc.)

MUSIC/MOVEMENT

- Participates in familiar songs
- Dances like no one is watching

CREATIVE DRAMATICS

- Makes believe with objects
- Takes on pretend roles and situations

IF THIS FEELS OVERWHELMING...

Getting ready for kindergarten is a simple resource that will show you step by step how to have your child kindergarten ready, whether you are a first-time parent, or a home school expert.

50 Books Your Child Should Read Before Kindergarten

A reading list, for kindergarten? Though they're not exactly required reading, these 50 books, both old and new, make a top-notch reading that young kids shouldn't miss. They run the gamut from read-alouds that parents can share, to early reading practice, These books deal with relevant subjects, skills kids should master, and of course, flat-out fun! So, hunker down and get reading!

1. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst
2. *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock* by Eric Kimmel or *Anansi the Spider* by Gerald McDermott
3. *Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer
4. The Berenstain Bears series by Stan and Jan Berenstain
5. *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
6. *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss
7. *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams
8. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault
9. *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* by Doreen Cronin
10. *Clifford the Big Red Dog* by Norman Bridwell
11. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judy Barrett
12. *Curious George* by H.A. Rey
13. *Danny and the Dinosaur* by Syd Hoff
14. *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* By Mo Willems
15. *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown
16. *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
17. *Froggy Gets Dressed* or *Froggy Goes to School* by Jonathan London
18. *George and Martha* by James Marshall
19. *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
20. *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson

21. *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion
22. *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* By Jane Yolen
23. *I Stink!* By Kate McMullen
24. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura J. Numeroff
25. *Ira Sleeps Over* by Bernard Waber
26. *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* by Simms Taback
27. *Leo, the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus
28. *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* by Bernard Waber
29. *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
30. *The Magic School Bus Series* by Joanna Cole
31. *Martha Speaks* by Susan Meddaugh
32. *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Virginia Lee Burton
33. *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate
34. *Miss Nelson is Missing!* By Harry Allard and James Marshall
35. *Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard Atwater
36. *My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett
37. *Nate the Great* by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
38. *Owen* by Kevin Henkes
39. *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch
40. *Pete's a Pizza* by William Steig
41. *Pierre: A Cautionary Tale* by Maurice Sendak
42. *Puss in Boots* by Charles Perrault
43. *Rapunzel* by Paul O. Zelinsky
44. *Strega Nona* by Tomie De Paola
45. *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon
46. *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
47. *Tough Boris* by Mem Fox
48. *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by A. Wolf, by John Scieszka
49. *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
50. *Yoko* by Rosemary Wells