

Is my child ready for kindergarten?



Kindergarten Readiness

Readiness is a term used to describe preparation for what comes next; readiness for kindergarten involves both the child and the instructional situation. Any consideration of the preparation a child needs to be successful in kindergarten must take into account the kindergarten program and the teacher's expectations of the child.

What then, will be the expectations our kindergarten teachers will have for your child coming in?

Let's answer that question first, by describing our kindergarten program to you.

Our kindergarten program is play oriented with many hands-on opportunities, but there are academic needs to be met as well. Through the course of the year the children will learn all letters of the alphabet and their sounds. They will learn how to write each letter in proper capital and lowercase form. They will learn to count to 100 by 1's, 5's, and 10's and also recognize all written numbers to 100. They should be able to write numbers to 100 by the end of the year. Learning to tell time, money amounts and simple addition are also part of the curriculum.

We work on sight words and writing these words and others that go into stories and books that the children will create. Beginning reading is encouraged, although not all children are ready for that step by the end of kindergarten.

What should your child know before coming to kindergarten?

Being ready for Kindergarten is not so much knowledge as it is maturity and development. Here is a readiness checklist that may be helpful when you are making this very important decision.

Check the skills that your child has mastered, and then recheck every month during the next months to see what new skills your child has attained.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Listen to stories without interrupting.<input type="checkbox"/> Recognize rhyming sounds (words)<input type="checkbox"/> Pay attention for short periods of time to adult directed tasks.<input type="checkbox"/> Follows two and three part directions<input type="checkbox"/> Show understanding of general times of day<input type="checkbox"/> Cut with scissors<input type="checkbox"/> Trace basic shapes (is able to use pencil well)<input type="checkbox"/> Begin to share with others<input type="checkbox"/> Follows rules<input type="checkbox"/> Be able to recognize authority<input type="checkbox"/> Manage bathroom needs<input type="checkbox"/> Button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers<input type="checkbox"/> Separate from parents without being upset<input type="checkbox"/> Speak understandably<input type="checkbox"/> Talk in complete sentences of five to six words | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Look at pictures and tell stories<input type="checkbox"/> Identify the beginning sound of some words<input type="checkbox"/> Identify some alphabet letters<input type="checkbox"/> Recognize some common sight words like "stop"<input type="checkbox"/> Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape.<input type="checkbox"/> Recognize groups of one, two, three, four, and five objects<input type="checkbox"/> Count to ten<input type="checkbox"/> Bounce a ball<input type="checkbox"/> Is willing to try something new<input type="checkbox"/> Replaces materials and cleans up work space<input type="checkbox"/> Knows first and last name and their age and sex<input type="checkbox"/> Is able to physically sit still for short periods of time, while listening to an adult.<input type="checkbox"/> Is respectful to adults |
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