

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Fine Motor Skills

- Holds writing instruments correctly
- Uses an eraser correctly
- Traces straight and curved lines
- Holds scissors correctly
- Uses scissors to cut straight and curved lines
- Turns a single page in a book
- Puts together simple puzzles
- Traces basic shapes

Math Skills

- Counts to ten
- Creates groups of up to 5 objects
- Places like items together (i.e., red cars and blue cars)
- Identifies and names shapes (circle, triangle, square, rectangle)
- Uses comparative words (heavier, shorter, less, taller, bigger, etc.)
- Identifies basic colors (red, pink, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, white, black, brown, gray)

Technology Skills

- Ability to focus on computer screen
- Comfortable with using mouse and clicking objects on screen
- Comfortable with wearing headphones
- Familiarity with talking to others via computer video
- Respect for care of computer equipment
- Familiarity with touching keyboard keys appropriately

Language/Literacy Skills

- Writes first name
- Recognizes first name in print
- Listens attentively and responds to stories and books
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Speaks clearly enough to be understood by unfamiliar adults
- Expresses feelings and ideas appropriately
- Identifies signs, symbols, or logos in the environment
- Knows and understands positional vocabulary (on, under, in, behind, beside, between, top, middle, bottom, etc.)
- Sings the Alphabet Song or recites the alphabet
- Knows how to handle a book (i.e., holds book right side up, knows where it starts and ends)
- Recognizes and identifies rhyming sounds
- Looks at pictures and can tell stories about them

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Social/Emotional Skills

- Tries new activities without giving up
- Takes turns
- Listens while others talk
- Shows concern for others
- Works well independently and in small groups
- Completes activities on time
- Gets through the day without napping
- Stays with an activity for an appropriate amount of time
- Plays and works with few individual prompts from an adult
- Exhibits self-control when frustrated or angry
- Seeks assistance when they may not be able to do an expected task
- Uses verbal skills to interact with peers and adults
- Responds to adult questions
- Responds to and follows multi-step verbal directions
- Recalls & follows directions from tasks previously discussed or demonstrated
- Learns new routines after limited practice
- Reacts appropriately to changes in routine
- Cares for personal belongings
- Waits patiently
- Focuses attention on a speaker for 5 minutes
- Complies with group as well as individual instructions
- Modifies behavior when given verbal feedback
- Sees themselves as a "can do" person
- Shows understanding of general times of day

Tips for Parents

- Talk with your child about the fun things they will get to do.
- Don't express regret that they are starting school.
- Start your school bedtime routine a month before school starts. You can scale back gradually if needed, having your child go to bed 5 or 10 minutes earlier each night.
- Praise and encourage your child's efforts and curiosity to help them gain confidence for their first year of school.
- Go to interesting places such as the beach, zoo, airport, or farm.
- Encourage your child to observe and talk about their experience.