



Is my child ready for Kindergarten? - Below is a checklist of skills your child should have before entering Kindergarten. Be sure to work with them over the summer, so they can be KINDERGARTEN READY in August!

Language skills

- Speak in complete sentences and be understood by others most of the time
- Use words to express needs and wants
- Understand two-step directions
- Make comparisons and describe relationships between objects like big/little, under/over, and first/last

Reading readiness skills

- Enjoy listening to stories
- Know how to find the first page of a book and which way to flip the pages
- Recognize familiar logos and signs, like stop signs
- Recite the alphabet and identify most of the letters
- Recognize and try to write their own name
- Recognize when two words rhyme (like *cat* and *bat*)
- Start to connect letter sounds to letters (like the sound of the first letter in their name)
- Draw a picture to help express an idea

Math skills

- Count from 1 to 10 without skipping numbers
- Match a number to a group of five or fewer items ("I see three cats")
- Recognize and name basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle)
- Understand *more than* and *less than*
- Arrange three objects in the right order (like from smallest to biggest)

- Name or point to the colors in a box of eight crayons

Self-care skills

- Use the bathroom and wash up on their own
- Get dressed on their own (but may still need help with buttons, zippers, and shoelaces)
- Know and can say their first and last name and age

Social and emotional skills

- Separate from a parent or caregiver without getting overly upset
- Interact with other kids
- Pay attention for at least five minutes to a task an adult is leading, like listening to directions for an activity or discussing the day's weather during circle time

Fine motor skills

- Use a pencil or crayon with some control
- Use scissors
- Copy basic shapes
- Make distinct marks that look like letters and write some actual letters, especially the ones in their name
- Put together a simple puzzle

Gross motor skills

- Run
- Jump with feet together
- Hop on one foot
- Climb stairs
- Bounce a ball and try to catch it