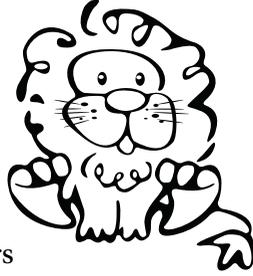


Early Reading Skills

- * Has been read to often. Knows how to hold books appropriately, how to turn pages and demonstrates an increasing enjoyment of books
- * Knows that words, not pictures, are read and have meaning
- * Recognizes his/her first name and other familiar words
- * Names at least 12 letters
- * Comprehends details of a story (can answer questions about a story you read to him/her)



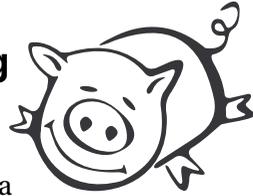
Help your child learn to enjoy books. Visit the library and surround your child with books every day. Refer to books when your child asks a question and model reading by reading yourself. Play games with letters and have your child's name written where it can be seen and recognized daily.

According to kindergarten teachers, these are the most important skills:

- Your child can use the toilet, wash hands, dress, eat and blow nose by him/herself
- Your child stays focused and pays attention for 10-15 minutes at a time
- Your child asks for help when he/she needs it
- Your child can hold a pencil, use a crayon and cut with scissors

When children can take care of personal needs and pay attention in the classroom, they are ready to learn other skills.

Early Writing Skills



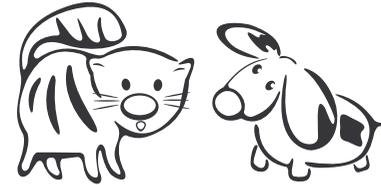
- * Holds a pencil with a finger grasp (not with a fist)
- * Writes letters or shapes to represent words
- * Writes his/her first name
- * Draws pictures of him/herself

Provide the materials for your child to explore the magic of writing. Writing can take place with a paint brush and water on the sidewalk or with a stick in the sand at the beach. Your child may need help learning to write his/her name. Make this a fun experience so your children will enjoy writing when they go to school.



Language Skills

- * Uses language to communicate, problem solve and seek information
- * Speaks clearly and is understood by others
- * Has conversations with others, using full sentences and maintaining the topic discussed
- * Asks and answers questions
- * Names colors and shapes



- * Listens to, remembers and follows one and two step directions (please close the door and bring me the book)

Language skills are thinking skills. The more children hear words and practice them, the better they will be at learning in school. Family conversations during dinner, telling stories about your day, playing imagination games with friends and reading books are all great ways to build language skills.

A Parent's Guide



Getting Ready For

Kindergarten

A public service publication from



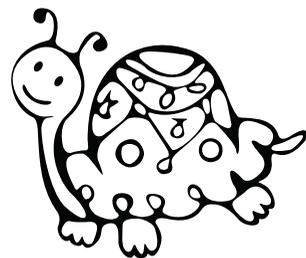
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Is my child "ready" for kindergarten?

This is an exciting time ... preparing your child for kindergarten! As your child's first and most important teacher, your support for your child and his/her upcoming school experience is critical. Being "ready" for kindergarten includes many areas of your child's development: physical, emotional, social, language and general knowledge development. Research shows that children grow and learn at different rates and that they learn best when actively involved.

The following list is a general guideline of school readiness skills, based on the Preschool Learning Foundations, that will help your child succeed in kindergarten. If you have concerns about whether your child is really ready for kindergarten, please contact your school.



Physical Development Skills

- * Jumps with two feet, hops with one foot
- * Kicks a ball
- * Catches a ball with two hands
- * Draws and colors beyond scribbling
- * Cuts on a line with scissors
- * Can zip, button and snap
- * Manages own clothing and toileting

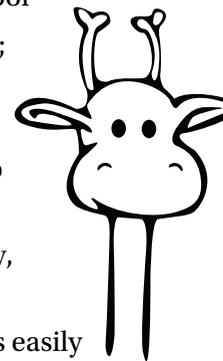
Make time to have your child actively play and exercise. Visit the park and encourage your child to run, jump and climb. Play with balls of different sizes. Support your child's fine motor development by providing lots of opportunities to strengthen his/her hands and fingers. Mold with playdough, draw with paint and crayons, and cut up magazines with child-safe scissors.

**Remember to give your child lots of time to play.
It's how children learn best.**



Social and Emotional Skills

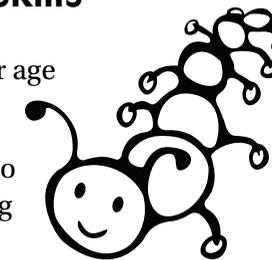
- * Feels comfortable in new situations and has a positive approach to new experiences and learning; is curious and excited about school
- * Shares and takes turns; uses good manners
- * Participates in group activities, is learning to resolve conflicts
- * Cooperates with family, friends and teachers
- * Separates from parents easily
- * Can talk about his/her feelings
- * Can concentrate on activities and pay attention for at least 10 minutes



Encourage your children to share their ideas, talk about their feelings and solve their problems. Being ready for school means knowing how to be a part of a group and follow the routine. Provide opportunities for your child to work cooperatively with other children and adults. Preschool, play groups and play dates are wonderful environments for children to practice these skills.

Early Math Skills

- * Knows his/her age
- * Counts to 20
- * Counts up to 10 items, pointing at each one
- * Knows numbers 1-5 by sight
- * Understands that numbers mean quantity (I want 2 toys)
- * Sorts and classifies items (sorts cars, foods); compares groups, understanding which group has more, fewer, or the same as
- * Solves simple addition and subtraction problems with small numbers of objects (if you have 3 crackers and you eat 1, how many are left?)
- * Identifies shapes: circle, square, rectangle, triangle



Math is everywhere around us. Help your child learn to count by counting things in their environment and talking about numbers and quantity. Have your child sort their toys when they clean up or help sort laundry or silverware. Point out the names of shapes in the environment as you walk or drive through town.