



Kindergarten Readiness Criteria

Readiness is far more than reaching a simple chronological age. Readiness encompasses many skills – physical, social and emotional maturation, self-care skills, motor control (fine and gross), language and math capacity. Children who are ready for kindergarten display the following characteristics and are adept with the following skills.

The Eight Readiness Indicators

Maturation

- Demonstrates a concept of time
- Sits still for 10 minutes for non-video/TV related activities
- Puts things back where they belong and cleans up after projects
- Easily separates from their parents
- Displays self-control
- Possesses a desire to learn
- Differentiates between fact and fiction

Social Skills

- Initiates own leisure-time activities
- Follows at least multiple step directions
- Performs tasks when asked the first time
- Finishes one activity before starting another
- Works independently
- Understands that actions have both causes and effects
- Makes friends and enjoys being with other children
- Shares belongings easily
- Uses appropriate problem solving skills

Self-Care

- Asks to use the bathroom and does so without assistance
- Eats with minimum adult assistance
- Puts on his/her own clothes, coat and shoes
- Knows about safety practices (traffic, playground and personal)
- Covers mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Knows basic safety rules

Motor Skills

Fine Motor/Eye-hand Coordination

- Cuts with scissors
- Uses a fork properly
- Demonstrates a hand preference
- Ties shoes
- Traces or draws a line with control
- Holds a pencil correctly

Gross Motor

- Catches and throws a medium sized ball
- Bounces a ball
- Skips
- Hops on one foot
- Claps a rhythm

Writing

- Uses tools for writing, drawing and painting
- Uses a mature grasp to hold a crayon, marker or pencil
- Copies or writes readable letters or numbers, writes or copies his/her own name and draws simple people or pictures

Language

- Recognizes written first name by sight
- Orally identifies letters in name
- Speaks in sentences
- Identifies similarities and differences in pictures
- Rhymes words
- Identifies a few written letters
- Identifies basic colors: red, green, blue and orange
- Recognizes some common sight words like “stop”
- Retells simple stories and sings simple songs
- Pretends to read

Communication Skills

- Communicates their feelings, needs and information to others
- Understands the “give and take” of conversation
- Knows when to listen to adults
- Follows a sequence of directions
- Recalls and expresses past events
- Begins to use humor
- Communicates using complete sentences composed of 5 to 6 words
- Uses correct verb tenses and sequences words appropriately
- Supplies complete name when asked
- Knows phone number
- Knows home address
- Understands the flow of written language (writing top to bottom, left to right)

Math Skills

- Identifies basic shapes: circle, square, triangle and rectangle
- Counts by route to 20
- Counts objects to 10
- Identifies a few written numbers
- Sorts similar objects by color, size and shape
- Recognizes simple patterns
- Begins the development of number sense