

# Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

While there's no perfect formula that determines when children are truly ready for kindergarten, you can use this checklist to see how well your child is doing in acquiring the skills found on most kindergarten checklists.

Check the skills your child has mastered. Then recheck every month to see what additional skills your child can accomplish easily.

Young children change so fast--if they can't do something this week, they may be able to do it a few weeks later.

- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Recognize rhyming words
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Understand actions have both causes and effects
- Show understanding of general times of day
- Cut with scissors
- Trace basic shapes
- Begin to share with others
- Start to follow rules
- Be able to recognize authority
- Manage bathroom needs
- Button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers
- Begin to control oneself
- Separate from parents without being upset
- Speak understandably
- Talk in complete sentences of five to six words
- Look at pictures and then tell stories
- Identify the beginning sound of some words
- Identify some alphabet letters
- Recognize some common sight words like "stop"
- Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape
- Recognize groups of one, two, three, four, and five objects
- Count to ten
- Bounce a ball

If your child has acquired most of the skills on this checklist and will be five years old by the September 30<sup>th</sup> cut-off, then here or she is probably ready for kindergarten. What teachers want to see on the first day of school are children who are healthy, mature, capable and eager to learn.

# *Is my Five-Year-Old Ready for Kindergarten?*

Kindergarten should be an exciting and rewarding experience for both children and their parents. While there is no perfect checklist to determine when your child is truly ready for kindergarten, the following list will give you an idea of the necessary skills a child should have mastered in order to receive the greatest benefit from their kindergarten experience. Remember, age is only one factor in determining kindergarten readiness. Social, emotional, cognitive and physical development should also be taken into account.

Your kindergarten-ready child should be able to:

## Social and Emotional Development

- Use words instead of being physical when angry or frustrated
- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Follow two-step directions
- Ask for help when necessary
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Stay with an activity to completion
- Initiate and sustain appropriate play with other children
- Begin to share with others and understand taking turns
- Comply with rules, limits, and routines
- Be able to recognize authority
- Interact appropriately with adults
- Respect the rights, property, and feelings of others
- Begin to control themselves
- Dress themselves (button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers)
- Manage bathroom needs independently
- Separate from parents for extended period of time without being upset
- Attempt new tasks knowing it's okay to make mistakes

## Motor Skills

- Hold scissors correctly
- Holds a pencil, crayon or marker properly
- Put together a 10-12 piece puzzle
- Ride a tricycle
- Run, jump, and skip
- Walk backwards
- Try to write, scribble, or draw

## Language

- Speak in complete sentences of 5-6

words

- Use descriptive language
- Sing and/or recite nursery rhymes
- Pretend, create, and make-up songs and stories
- Talk about everyday experiences
- Tell or retell stories
- Enjoy having books read to him/her
- Ask questions
- Verbally and appropriately respond to a topic
- Express her/his ideas so others can understand her/him

## Academic

- Look at pictures and then tell stories
- Identify some alphabet letters
- Count to 10
- Correctly count at least 3 objects
- Identify own first name in writing
- Attempt to print own first name
- Recognize and identify 5 colors
- Understand concepts such as in/out, under/on, on/off, front/back
- Participate in art and music activities
- Know her/his body parts (head, shoulder, knees, etc.)
- Draw a picture of her/himself including head, body, arms, and legs
- Use words like bigger, smaller or heaviest to show comparison

## **IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR KINDERGARTEN?**

Children grow and mature at different rates. Not all children are ready for school at the same time. This is a checklist of developmental skill levels based upon evidence of school readiness in children.

It has been prepared with the hope that Parents will evaluate in a general way their child's overall pattern of development and readiness.

### **READINESS CHECKLIST**

1. Will your child be 5 years when he/she enters kindergarten?
2. Can others easily understand your child when he/she speaks to them?
3. Does your child pay attention to a short story when it is read and answer simple questions about it?
4. Is your child able to draw and color a picture, beyond a scribble?
5. Is your child able to zip or button up his sweater or jacket?
6. Can your child tie a knot?
7. Is your child able to walk backwards for 5 or 6 feet?
8. Is your child able to stand on one foot for 5 or 10 seconds?
9. Is your child able to walk in a straight line?
10. Is your child able to fasten buttons he/she can see?
11. Is your child able to tell the left hand from the right?
12. Is your child able to take care of his/her toilet needs?
13. Is your child able to be away from his/her parents for about two or three hours without being upset?
14. Is your child able to cross a street safely?
15. Is your child able to repeat a series of 4 numbers without practice, such as "Say after me 7-2-6-3?"
16. Is your child able to repeat 8 and 10 word sentences if you say them once-- "The girl ran all the way to the store for her mother"
17. Is your child able to follow about 2 or 3 directions after being told once, such as "Bring me a book; skip around the room; shut the door?"
18. Is your child able to give the last word to all of the following:  
A fire is hot; ice is \_\_\_\_  
A jet goes fast; but a turtle goes \_\_\_\_  
Daddy is a man; Mother is a \_\_\_\_\_
19. Is your child able to count 4 objects?
20. Is your child able to put together a simple puzzle?
21. Can your child tell what is missing if you draw a stick picture of a man and leave out eyes, or a leg, or an arm?

22. Is your child able to draw or copy a square?
23. Can your child name a triangle, a square and a circle when he/she sees it?
24. Can your child name about 3 or 4 colors to which you point?
25. Can your child tell you what his/her eyes, ears and mouth are used for?
26. Is your child able to tell you in what way a sweater, shoe and hat are the same?
27. Does your child take an interest in the books and magazines that are around the house?
28. Have you attempted to create in your child the idea of looking forward to school experiences rather than fear of school?

### **RESULTS:**

Count the number of items you were able to answer with a "YES" response. Consult the table below for information relative to state of readiness for school.

Number of items answered "Yes" should be 26 to 28  
(readiness assured)

Number of items answered "Yes" should be 22 to 25  
(readiness probable)

Number of items answered "Yes" should be 18 to 21  
(readiness questionable)

Number of items answered "Yes" should be 15 to 17  
(Readiness doubtful)

Number of items answered "Yes" should be 13 or below (readiness Unlikely)

~Please keep in mind these are simply guidelines. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or readiness for school, contact your school, pediatrician or other qualified professional.