



WHAT DOES YOUR CHILD REALLY NEED TO KNOW BEFORE KINDERGARTEN?!?!

The two MOST IMPORTANT skills for your child before he/she begin kindergarten is a desire to learn and a respect for others. Obviously, these "skills" are also the most difficult to quantify or measure. But if you are raising your child to be curious and inquisitive of the world around him while also teaching him to obey authority and treat other children with kindness, the rest of this list is just a bonus!

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

LEARNING

- Shows an eagerness to learn and age-appropriate curiosity
- Persists in completing a task and is willing to ask for help if needed
- Exemplifies a pleasant and cooperative personality

SELF-CONTROL

- Follows rules and routines
- Manages transitions (going from one activity to the next)
- Demonstrates normal activity level

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS

- Interacts easily with one or more children
- Interacts easily with familiar adults
- Participates in group activities
- Plays well with others
- Takes turns and shares
- Cleans up after play

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- Seeks adult help when needed to resolve conflicts
- Uses words to resolve conflicts

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

LISTENING

- Listens attentively to directions and conversations
- Follows one and two-step directions

SPEAKING

- Speaks clearly and can be easily understood without the need for contextual clues
- Can sequence events in an oral conversation



LITERATURE AND READING

- Listens with interest to stories read aloud
- Shows interest in reading-related activities
- Retells information from a story

WRITING

- Uses pictures to communicate ideas
- Scribbles, draws shapes, or attempts to create letter-like symbols to write words or ideas

ALPHABET KNOWLEDGE

- Recites/sings alphabet
- Identifies upper-case letters
- Identifies lower-case letters
- Matches upper-case letters to the lower-case letter counterpart

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: MATHEMATICAL THINKING

PATTERNS AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Sorts by color, shape, and size
- Orders or seriates several objects on the basis of one attribute (i.e. "size"— small, medium, large)
- Recognizes simple patterns and duplicates them (i.e. circle, square, circle, square)

NUMBER CONCEPT AND OPERATIONS

- Rote counts to 20
- Demonstrates one-to-one correspondence when counting 10 objects
- Matches oral numbers to their written numerals
- Identifies numerals 0-10

GEOMETRY AND SPATIAL RELATIONS

- Identifies 4 shapes- circle, square, rectangle, triangle
- Demonstrates concepts of positional/directional concepts (up/down, over/under, in/out, behind/in front of, beside/between, top/bottom, inside/outside, above/below, high/low, right/left, off/on, first/last, far/near, go/stop).

Measurement

- Shows understanding of and uses comparative words (big/little, large/small, short/long, tall/short, slow/fast, few/many, empty/full, less/more).



KINDERGARTEN READINESS: PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

GROSS-MOTOR SKILLS.

- Pedals and steers a tricycle
- Jumps in place, landing on two feet
- Jumps consecutively- 7 jumps
- Balances on one foot for 5 seconds
- Hops on one foot 2-3 hops
- Hops on one foot- 6 ft.
- Throws a ball with direction- 5 ft.
- Catches a thrown ball with arms and body
- Climbs a playground ladder
- Skips smoothly for 20 feet

FINE-MOTOR SKILLS

- Stacks 10 small blocks
- Strings large beads
- Completes a seven-piece interlocking puzzle
- Makes a pancake, snake, and ball from playdough
- Grasps pencil correctly
- Copies: vertical line, horizontal line, circle, cross, square, V, triangle
- Prints first name
- Grasps scissors correctly
- Cuts within 1/4" of a straight line
- Cuts out a small square, triangle, and circle
- Uses a glue stick appropriately
- Uses appropriate amount of glue for tasks

KINDERGARTEN READINESS: THE ARTS

CREATIVE ARTS

- Identifies 10 colors: red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple, black, white, brown, pink
- Uses a variety of art materials for tactile experience and exploration (paint, crayons, markers, clay, etc.)
- Enjoys singing
- Dances like no one is watching
- Makes believe with objects
- Takes on pretend roles and situations