

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:

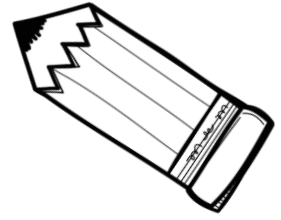


Social and Emotional Development

- 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 leg
- Use words like bigger, smaller or heaviest to show comparison