

Kindergarten Readiness

Checklist





Is My Child Ready For Kindergarten?

Deciding whether your child is ready for kindergarten depends on a lot of variables. They may be extremely intelligent, but that is only one portion of “readiness”. The rigors of a full day in K, also requires a child to sit for long periods of time and have an attention span, as well as be coordinated and work well with other children. Are they physically and socially ready as well as mentally prepared?

Remember, life is a journey to be enjoyed, not a race to be completed.

When a child is ready they will enjoy the journey so much more.

On a personal note, both my sons were not “ready” for kindergarten. They had November 13th and June 30th birthdays. Developmental Kindergarten was available for the first time, when I needed to make a choice for my oldest son, Jason. I hopped on the bandwagon. I have NEVER regretted that choice.

It was the PERFECT spot for both of them. They LOVED school and were truly “ready” the following year.

My daughter, with an April 17th birthday, on the other hand, was “more than ready” for kindergarten. She waved to me at the outside door, and didn’t even want me to come in with her! I was the one who cried the first day.

All three of my children were honor students and graduated from college. I think my sons would have struggled in K had I not put them in DK. Every child is different and should not be pushed or rushed just because of “age”.

Having taught Y5’s for 10 years as well as K, I can tell you many sad stories filled with an ocean of tears cried by these little ones who were just not ready.

All of them disliked school, hated coming, and many ended up repeating kindergarten.

Some were “saved” because we were able to put them in the Y5’s program where they should have been placed from the get-go. They flourished there.

The government is no longer having us teach an age-appropriate curriculum anymore.

With so many mandatory standards, Kindergarten does not have the luxury of time for all of the fun things that we used to be able to do.

A child rarely can be a child anymore and simply have fun!

Many parents do NOT realize this. It is up to the teachers to educate them on the rigors of their child’s day, so they can make wise choices and pre-plan ahead of time.

Hopefully this checklist will help out.

Highlight or check off the things your child CAN do.



Kindergarten Readiness Checklist



Fine Motor Skills:

1. Can color a picture
2. Puts a 10-12 piece puzzle together
3. Holds a scissors correctly
4. Cut on a line with scissors
5. Holds a pencil/crayon properly
6. Draw a straight line.
7. Trace letters, numbers and shapes
8. Draw a circle, X and a straight line.



Gross Motor Skills:

1. Runs
2. Walks backward
3. Walks up and down stairs
4. Can line up
5. Hops on one foot
6. Balances on one foot

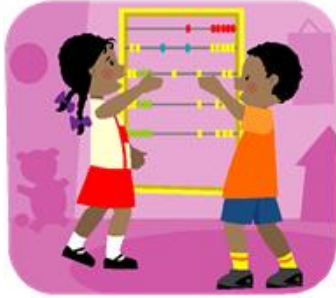


7. Can throw a ball
8. Can catch a ball
9. Can bounce a ball
10. Skips
11. Hold a book and turn the pages one at a time
12. Can button
13. Can zip
14. Can snap
15. Dresses self



Social Skills:

1. Enjoys having books read to them
2. Uses words instead of being physical when angry
3. Speaks clearly so an adult can understand them
4. Play with other children
5. Follows simple directions
6. Expresses needs and wants
7. Uses manners (please and thank you)
8. Follows simple 2 and 3 step directions
9. Goes to the bathroom by themselves.
10. Waits their turn
11. Shares
12. Keeps hands to self



13. Plays well with others
14. Talks in sentences
15. Asks questions about things around them
16. Can tell a story about the past
17. Can spend extended periods away from Mom & Dad
18. Does not cry when separated from parents
19. Can concentrate quietly on an assigned task for at least 10 minutes
20. Cleans up after self
21. Helps clean up when told
22. Pays attention to a short story when it is read
23. Takes care of belongings
24. Follows rules
25. Recognizes authority
26. Completes one task before beginning another
27. Shows empathy
28. Shows remorse
29. Follows through
30. Makes an effort to solve problems before seeking help from others
31. Independent
32. Continues an activity without constant attention and reminders
33. Adjusts well to new situations
34. Stays focused and on task
35. Can work well with a group
36. Can listen without interrupting
37. Understands that actions have consequences
38. Able to follow a routine



- 39. Participates in music (sings songs)
- 40. Initiates their leisure activities
- 41. Cooperates
- 42. Listens while others speak
- 43. Holds a conversation and participates
- 44. Shows self-control
- 45. Participates in art (draws pictures)
- 46. Demonstrates curiosity, persistence, exploratory behavior
- 47. Interested in school, learning, books



Academic Skills:

- 1. Understands the concept of simple addition and subtraction. i.e + 1 more or take away 1.
- 2. Recognizes basic shapes: (circle, triangle, rectangle, square)
- 3. Can sort items by color
- 4. Can sort items by shape
- 5. Can sort items by size
- 6. Can arrange items by size (small, medium and large)
- 7. Can identify at least six body parts
- 8. Can recognize 5-6 colors
- 9. Understands the concept of spatial directions (up, down, in, out, behind, over, under, beside)
- 10. Counts from 1-10
- 11. Can put things in order.



12. Tries to write their name
13. Recognizes their name.
14. Recognizes some letters in their name.
15. Expresses ideas through pictures. i.e. draws a picture of the family and names the people in the picture.
16. Matches a letter with a sound.
17. Uses more or less correctly
18. Recognizes some shapes (circle, triangle, rectangle, square, heart, star)
19. Can associate that shape with a real life thing. i.e the door is a rectangle, the clock is a circle.
20. Recognizes signs that they see all of the time. i.e McDonald's golden arches= McDonald's a stop sign means stop.
21. Makes simple predictions and comments on a story when you read to them.
22. Can tell things that go together and things that don't belong. i.e. spoon, dish, folk and a dinosaur.
23. Identifies similarities and differences in pictures
24. Can tell what simple words mean
25. Can put together an 8-12 piece puzzle
26. Recognizes at least 10 letters of the alphabet
27. Understands that letters are associated with words
28. Associates letters with sounds
29. Attempts to read and write
30. Can look at a picture and tell a story
31. Can retell a story
32. Can sing a song from memory
33. Can say a nursery song or poem from memory



- 34. Can draw self
- 35. Recognizes groups of 1-5 objects
- 36. Can identify the beginning sound of some words



Personal Information:

- 1. Knows their first name.
- 2. Knows their last name.
- 3. Knows their address
- 4. Knows their phone number
- 5. Knows where their parent's work or what they do for a living
- 6. Knows their sibling's names
- 7. Knows what position they are in the family (Youngest, oldest etc.)





This list merely provides suggestions and is based on what a consensus of teachers around the globe have found as a good measurement of readiness.

I've made this list from my experience teaching Y5's and kindergarten, along with a variety of checklists that I've compiled through the years based on over 30 sources on the Internet.

If you have other things you've added to your list, that you feel are pertinent, I'd enjoy hearing from you diane@teachwithme.com and I'll add them to this list. Thanks in advance for your time.

