

Help Your Child be Ready for Kindergarten

Self-Help Skills:

- Eats independently
- Uses restroom independently (including washing hands)
- Puts on and takes off coat/sweater independently (zips and buttons independently)
- Ties shoes independently
- Cleans up after self
- Asks questions and seeks out adult help when necessary

Social/Emotional Skills:

- Tries new things
- Takes turns
- Shares materials
- Listens while others talk
- Shows concern for others
- Plays cooperatively with other children
- Works well independently or in small groups
- Separates from parent without undue anxiety
- Knows and can tell parent/guardian's first and last names
- Knows and can tell own first and last name
- Knows and can tell phone number
- Follows 1-step and 2-step directions
- Transitions promptly from one activity to another when instructed

Large Motor Skills:

- Hops, jumps, and runs
- Bounces, catches, kicks, and throws balls
- Walks in a straight line forward and backward
- Balances on dominant foot for five seconds
- Participates in simple games

Small Motor Skills:

- Holds pencil correctly (see handout)
- Holds scissors correctly, keeping thumb on top
- Uses scissors to cut comfortably
- Puts together simple puzzles
- Turns a single page in a book
- Draws small circles, counterclockwise
- Draws squares, rectangles, and triangles
- Draws simple pictures

Math Skills:

- Counts to 20 from memory
- Counts to 20 with one-to-one correspondence (touches an object while saying each number)
- Identifies written numerals 0 – 10
- Can place numbers 0 – 10 in numerical order
- Creates groups of up to 5
- Recognizes colors
- Places like items together (sorting by color, shape, like characteristics)
- Plays with, identifies, and names the shapes: circle, square, rectangle, triangle
- Uses comparative words (i.e. heavier, shorter, less, taller, bigger)
- Experiments with measuring using rulers, measuring cups/spoons, scales, etc.

Language/Writing Skills:

- Listens attentively and responds to stories and books
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Speaks clearly enough to be understood by unfamiliar adults (volume and articulation)
- Has a vocabulary that includes words to name colors, parts of the body, and positional words (in/out, to/from, around, upside down, under/over, next to, etc.)
- Expresses feelings and ideas
- Enjoys and can memorize poems, nursery rhymes, and songs
- Identifies signs, symbols, or logos in the community
- Recognizes and names the upper and lower case letters of the alphabet
- Recognizes letters in own name
- Writes own first name using a capital letter at the beginning with lower case letters following