

Kindergarten Readiness List

This list reviews suggested developmental and academic readiness skills that children should know or be exposed to while preparing for kindergarten. Each child learns differently and will make progress at different times.

MATH/NUMBERS

- Have an understanding of shape and number concepts
 - Verbally count to 10
 - Recognizing written numbers to 5
 - Recognize multiple ways to identify amount/numbers (dice, 10's frame, tally, array)
 - Count objects with 1:1 correspondence up to 5
 - Recognize and identify shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle
 - Extend a 2-element pattern (ABABAB)
 - Compare objects by size and weight using correct vocabulary
 - Small, big, short, tall, empty, full, heavy, light

READING/LANGUAGE

- Have an understanding of phonics and the alphabet
 - Say the alphabet (not sing)
 - Know some upper/lowercase letters by sight
 - Know some letter sounds
 - Know their name and letters in their name by sight
 - Print name with lowercase letters except first letter
 - Use Handwriting without Tears formation
 - Exposure to Zoophonics if possible
- Hold a book and turn pages correctly
- Retell details of a story
- Understanding questions vs. stories

FINE MOTOR/SELF CARE

- Is able to trace lines
- Handling learning tools appropriately
 - Hold scissors correctly/scissor use
 - Correct pencil grip
 - Exposure to white glue/glue sticks
- Zip coat, button pants
- Can use the bathroom on their own
- Wash hands on their own

SOCIAL/CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Recognizes and reacts to some social cues and manages feelings
 - Hands are to help, not to hurt
 - Understanding emotions/feelings
 - Personal space
 - Awareness of cause and effect in relationships
 - Shows empathy and kindness
- Seating expectations (crisscross, hands in lap, listening ears, FOCUS)
- Following direction

Preparing at Home

Kindergarten readiness skills will develop in part naturally, but parents can facilitate the proper development of these skills through simple activities at home. Make learning fun to increase engagement and interest!

ACADEMIC

- Hide and Seek (and variations: count by twos, fives, tens)
- I Spy (colors, shapes, textures, smells, other adjectives)
- Charades
- Sort by category, size, or shape
- Find letters of the alphabet on road signs on a trip, book, or in a menu.
- Patterning with colored toys, M&M's, or objects.
- Simon Says
- Twenty Questions w. increasingly helpful clues
- "Hotter/Colder" (hide something and guide with clues to proximity)
- "Pictionary" (not the real board game, but just you and your child with a piece of paper)
- popsicle stick crafts (birdhouses, bridges, etc.)
- sorting laundry by type, size, person, or color
- Find things that rhyme around the house
- Dress up!
- Give your child measuring cups for baking, sand, rice.
- Print off a picture and cut into puzzle pieces or squares
- Count or add together snacks (goldfish, pretzels, carrots)
- Shapes or letters with sidewalk chalk
- Magnetic letters for the fridge/match them with the written number.
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- Match a dots on a die to a written number or number of objects.
- Make a memory game with index cards (draws shapes, letters, written numbers w/ same number of objects or dots)
- Match a clothespin with a letter on it to an object that starts with that letter.
- Write numbers in each section of an egg carton. Have your child match the number of objects with chocolate chips, raisins, beads, cereal.
- Shape hunt in the kitchen (plates, jar lids, cookie sheets)
- Teach objects in groups by using "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" Rhyme.
- Make letters out of play-doh
- Grow plants from seeds. Talk about description of change and sequence.
- Shape hunt in the kitchen (plates, jar lids, cookie sheets)
- Teach objects in groups by using "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" Rhyme.
- Make letters out of play-doh
- Grow plants from seeds. Talk about description of change and sequence
- Trace shapes out of cardboard
- Sing songs
- Dance!
- READ!
- Go to the library
- Choose a special and comfortable place in your house to read.
- Hold the book so that she or he can see the pictures. If possible, also let her or him turn the pages.
- Take time to look at and talk about the pictures. Ask your child point out letters, shapes, colors, and animals.
- Invite your child to read to you. They will love to interpret their own story using illustrations and imagination.

Verbal Games

- Do on a walk. Observe what's outside. Ask fun questions such as "Do leaves, trees or cars grow?"
- Guess What?: "Guess what has four feet and a long hairy nose?"
- "What did you have for breakfast?"
- Yes or No: "The sky is yellow."
- Which One Doesn't Belong, and Why? "bike, car, train, dog?"
- Follow My Directions: "Crawl under the table...move two steps to the left..." (Works even better if you hide an M&M at the end.)
- Categories: "sock...shoe...shirt..." (the child says, "Clothes!").
- Finish It: "I like to..."
- What Comes Next?: "tree flower flower tree flower flower..." (the child says "tree!")
- What Did I Repeat?: "pig horse pig chicken" (the child says, "pig!")
- What Do You Do If...?: "What do you do if you need to call mom"

Fine Motor

- Matching/folding socks
- Pinching items with tongs-hide objects in rice or beans
- Tearing small bits of paper
- Cut short strips at the top of a small piece of paper to resemble hair. Draw a face on the paper and have the child "give it a haircut" by snipping the strips.
- Make letters, numbers, shapes, or a person in shaving cream
- Practice cutting play-doh with plastic scissors or plastic knife
- Write shapes, letters, pictures in sidewalk chalk or spray with a squirt bottle.

