

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As most parents have heard, kindergarten has changed and is nothing like “the good old days.” Back in “the good old days,” you probably went to school for just half a day. You learned to sit at rug time, take turns at playtime, handle blocks, play with playdough and color with watercolors. However, the main goal of kindergarten is the same as ever: to build lifelong good feelings about learning and school. But, it’s also true that kindergarten now includes new challenges. Generally, kindergarten now includes skills and concepts which used to be covered in first grade.

Although each child is unique and develops at his or her own pace, most educators agree upon a certain set of skills as essential tools for further development and achievement in school. Below is a checklist of the developmental skills children need exposure to and knowledge of **BEFORE** they enter kindergarten.

At China Spring Elementary School, we are constantly hearing parents’ voice that they were unaware of the increased demands in kindergarten. Therefore, we feel it’s important to share this information now. Do you know someone who will have a student beginning their school experience in kindergarten NEXT SCHOOL YEAR? If so, please pass this checklist on to them.

Sincerely,  
China Spring Elementary Kindergarten Teachers

### Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

<b><u>Reading Readiness</u></b>
Recites the alphabet correctly
Identifies uppercase & lowercase letters
Identifies the sound each letter makes
Writes a few letters of the alphabet
Writes first name correctly (Capital only at the beginning of name)
Recognizes own name in print
Understands left to right movement of reading
Retells information from a story
<b><u>Listening Skills</u></b>
Sits quietly and listens
Follows 1-step and 2-step directions
<b><u>Math</u></b>
Sorts by color, shape, and size
Counts to 20
Counts 10 objects, pointing to each one as he/she counts
Identifies 4 shapes: circle, square, triangle, and rectangle
Identifies 10 colors: red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple, black, white, brown, and pink
<b><u>Social Skills</u></b>
Correctly states his/her gender and age
Recites first and last name
Recites birthday
Takes turns and shares
Cleans up after playing
Follows rules and routines
Expresses self with words, rather than acting out physically

The following website will also provide you with information on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), which are state standards for what kindergarten students should know and be able to do – <https://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=6148>