

Countdown to Kindergarten

A child's success in school and beyond is greatly influenced by their social and academic knowledge, skills, and behaviors. The following indicators highlight the essential skills, knowledge, and behaviors required for a smooth transition to kindergarten. Please note that this is not a test, but rather a tool that you can utilize to support your child's preparation for this significant milestone.

LANGUAGE & LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes and identifies most or all letters of the alphabet • Knows many letter sounds • Recognizes own name, names for others, and common words in print • Communicates clearly and is understood by most people • Recognizes and produces rhyming words • Identifies the first sound in a word • Understands an increasing number and variety of words for objects, for actions, and to describe things • Recalls events in a story including beginning, middle, and end • Prints name • Understands concepts such as top/bottom, under/over, before/after, first/last/next
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes and knows the names of numbers • Recites numbers in order to 20 • Counts up to ten objects using one-to-one correspondence (one object for each number word) • Identifies different shapes • Understands basic addition and subtraction problems using numbers 1 to 9 • Compares, matches, and sorts objects into groups according to their attributes • Writes numbers 1-10 • Recognizes the number of objects in a small group without the need to count them
APPROACHES TO LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays and sustains attention when engaged in an activity • Asks questions about the world around them (ex: "What do plants need to grow?") • Perseveres to learn from challenges and master difficult activities • Copes with frustration or disappointment independently or with support • Builds resiliency when approaching challenging tasks • Recognizes relationships between cause & effect • Connects prior experiences with new learning • Enjoys pretend play (ex: rocking a baby doll, driving a truck, etc.)
MOTOR SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds pencil correctly • Uses scissors to accurately cut lines • Colors with control • Opens and closes objects • Performs basic self-help/self-care tasks • Throws, catches, and bounces a large ball • Climbs stairs on a jungle gym
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works/plays collaboratively with others • Regulates emotions and works with focus (remains on task for 5-10 minutes) • Understands and follows rules and routines • Follows multi-step directions • Invites others to share materials or space he/she is using • Seeks adult help when appropriate