

## Start Strong in Kindergarten

- In the same way that every child learns to walk at a different age, different children develop academic and social skills at different rates.
- **This is not a checklist.** Instead, this is a way for you reflect upon your child's strengths and growth areas as you prepare your child for Kindergarten.
  - If your child has some of the skills listed in each area, your child's skills are in line with the expectations for kindergarten readiness.
  - If your child has not yet acquired many of the skills in each area, it may indicate that your child could benefit from more experience in a structured learning environment or exposure to similar-aged peers prior to embarking on kindergarten.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes own name and names of familiar people and things</li> <li>• Speaks in complete sentences</li> <li>• Tells a story about a past experience</li> <li>• Engages in conversations with others</li> <li>• Uses words to express needs</li> <li>• Understands and follows 2 step directions</li> <li>• Listens when someone is talking</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social Emotional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puts his or her belongings away</li> <li>• Uses materials appropriately (art materials, toys)</li> <li>• Uses the bathroom and washes hands independently</li> <li>• Asks an adult for help when needed</li> <li>• Identifies emotions (happy, sad, mad)</li> <li>• Shows concern for others</li> <li>• Plays positively with 2-3 other children</li> <li>• Takes turns with toys and on the playground</li> <li>• Separates from parent/guardian and recovers quickly</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cognitive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works cooperatively with a friend to play a game or complete a puzzle</li> <li>• Sustains an activity for more than 5 minutes</li> <li>• Tries different solutions to solve a problem.</li> <li>• Ask questions about something to learn new information</li> <li>• Uses imagination and props to engage in pretend play</li> <li>• Makes connections when reading a book</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runs and walks</li> <li>• Alternates feet on stairs</li> <li>• Climbs playground equipment</li> <li>• Jumps on two feet</li> <li>• Throws and kicks a ball</li> <li>• Cuts with scissors</li> <li>• Pours liquids from one container to another</li> <li>• Uses fork and spoon to eat</li> <li>• Buttons/zips own clothing with support</li> <li>• Opens and closes doors</li> <li>• Holds a pencil, crayon or marker correctly</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Literacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes that some words begin with the same sound</li> <li>• Knows most letters in the alphabet</li> <li>• Recognizes when two words rhyme</li> <li>• Draws a picture and tells about it</li> <li>• Recognizes and can write own first name</li> <li>• Pretends to read a book (knows how to hold book and where to start reading)</li> <li>• Pretends to read a familiar story using language similar to the text</li> <li>• Asks and answers questions about a book</li> <li>• Retells familiar stories</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Math</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes numerals to 5 or 10</li> <li>• Counts 5 to 10 objects</li> <li>• Understands positional words (next to, under, on top of, over, between)</li> <li>• Compares objects: smaller/larger, heavier/lighter, more/less</li> <li>• Sorts objects by color, size, or shape</li> <li>• Builds a tower or structure with blocks</li> </ul>