



Hot Topics for Rising Kindergarteners

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Is my child ready for Kindergarten?

- Redshirting: Consider independence, routines, stamina, social skills.
- Summer Birthdays: Look at the whole child, not just age. (5 by August 31st)
- Younger ≠ Behind: Readiness is developmental, not a race.
- Normal Differences: Kids start at varied levels; teachers differentiate.
- Trust Growth: Focus is on a year's growth and building confidence.

What does Kindergarten

Look Like in?

September

Social-Emotional :

- Learning how to be part of a community
- Slowly building stamina and independence
- Lots of adult support with transitions, routines, and problem solving

Academic:

- Wide range of skills
- Learning academic routines with foundational concepts
- Assessments to determine student needs

January

Social-Emotional :

- Stronger sense of routines and procedures
- Friendships are forming, comfortable with peers
- Solving problems with some teacher guidance

Academic:

- Shows growth in literacy and math skills
- Working on letter sounds, sight words, decoding
- Sorting, comparing, numbers 1-10
- Using letters and words to label pictures

June

Social-Emotional:

- Confident members of school community
- Carry out routines and solve problems with little adult help
- Can get needs and wants met independently

Academic:

- Most are reading emergent texts
- Adding and subtracting within 10 & basic understanding place value
- Writing at least 1-2 full sentences

Academic Preparedness

What if my child can't read when they enter Kindergarten?

- Our job is to meet all students where they are
- Kindergarten curriculum starts with the foundations
 - Identifying letter names/sounds, learning sight words, basic number sense)
- Kindergarteners start the year with a wide range skills
- All your child needs is curiosity, a love of stories, and a desire to learn!

What should the Kindergarten experience look like so I know my child is ready for first grade if I opt for a private Kindergarten next year?



Social–Emotional:

- Follows routines, plays well, manages emotions, curious



Academic:

- Knows letters/sounds, reads simple texts
- Writes with pictures & phonetic spelling
- Counts to 20, adds/subtracts within 10, patterns, retells stories



Independence & Habits:

- Manages needs, follows directions, transitions smoothly

Stamina:

- Focuses 15–20 min, handles full day, eager to learn

Big Idea:

Readiness = confidence, independence, and joy in learning

Questions

