

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.

Language	Social Emotional	Cognitive
• Recognizes own name and names of familiar people and things • Speaks in complete sentences • Tells a story about a past experience • Engages in conversations with others • Uses words to express needs • Understands and follows 2 step directions • Listens when someone is talking	• Puts his or her belongings away • Uses materials appropriately (art materials, toys) • Uses the bathroom and washes hands independently • Asks an adult for help when needed • Identifies emotions (happy, sad, mad) • Shows concern for others • Plays positively with 2-3 other children • Takes turns with toys and on the playground • Separates from parent/guardian and recovers quickly	• Works cooperatively with a friend to play a game or complete a puzzle • Sustains an activity for more than 5 minutes • Tries different solutions to solve a problem. • Ask questions about something to learn new information • Uses imagination and props to engage in pretend play • Makes connections when reading a book
Physical	Literacy	Math
• Runs and walks • Alternates feet on stairs • Climbs playground equipment • Jumps on two feet • Throws and kicks a ball • Cuts with scissors • Pours liquids from one container to another • Uses fork and spoon to eat • Buttons/zips own clothing with support • Opens and closes doors • Holds a pencil, crayon or marker correctly	• Recognizes that some words begin with the same sound • Knows most letters in the alphabet • Recognizes when two words rhyme • Draws a picture and tells about it • Recognizes and can write own first name • Pretends to read a book (knows how to hold book and where to start reading) • Pretends to read a familiar story using language similar to the text • Asks and answers questions about a book • Retells familiar stories	• Recognizes numerals to 5 or 10 • Counts 5 to 10 objects • Understands positional words (next to, under, on top of, over, between) • Compares objects: smaller/larger, heavier/lighter, more/less • Sorts objects by color, size, or shape • Builds a tower or structure with blocks