

Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?

As the date for Douglas County School District's Kindergarten Registration approaches many parents struggle with questions determining their child's readiness for school.

- Is my child mature enough to spend time in a program like kindergarten?
- Does my child have the academic basics to start kindergarten?
- Am I, as a parent, ready to send my child to kindergarten?

Although we cannot answer the last question for you, we can help inform your decision in assessing your child's social skills and academic abilities. Use the criteria in the following checklist to identify your child's strengths in determining kindergarten readiness.

Is my child mature enough to spend time in a program like kindergarten?

My Child Can:	CHECK ONE		
	Always	Often	Seldom
Listen to stories without interrupting			
Pay attention for short periods of time			
Follows adult-directed tasks			
Understand actions have both causes and effects			
Begin to share with others			
Start to follow rules			
Be able to recognize authority			
Manage bathroom needs			
Button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers			
Begin to control oneself			
Separate from parents without being upset			
Understand ownership of mine, theirs, and ours			
Able to remember where common household items are kept			
Knows how to take turns			

Does my child have the academic basics to start kindergarten?

My Child Can:	CHECK ONE		
	Always	Often	Seldom
Talk in complete sentences of five to six words			
Show understanding of general times of day			
Cut with scissors			
Look at pictures and then tell stories			
Speak understandably			
Identify rhyming words			
Identify some alphabet letters			
Counts to ten			
Identify the beginning sound of some words			
Trace basic shapes			
Recognize some common sight words like "stop"			
Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape			
Recognizes groups of 1, 2, 3, 4, +/- 5			
Recognize rhyming sounds			

Developed from Readiness Characteristics published by Peggy Gisler, Ed.S. and Marge Eberts, Ed.S.

If you checked mostly **Always** and **Often** boxes on either of these two charts, your child's academic and social skills are in line with the expectations for kindergarten readiness. Many **Seldom** checkmarks on either side could indicate that your child may benefit from more experience in a structured learning environment or exposure to similar-aged peers prior to embarking on 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. Douglas County School District Educators are ready and willing to work with you in determining your child's individual needs in order for them to have a successful school experience.

Please contact your neighborhood school for registration information and assistance.