

Is My Five-Year-Old Ready for Kindergarten?



Kindergarten should be an exciting and rewarding experience for both children and their parents. *While there is no perfect checklist to determine when your child is truly ready for kindergarten, the following list will give you an idea of necessary skills a child should have mastered in order to receive the greatest benefit from their kindergarten experience.* Remember, age is only one factor in determining kindergarten readiness. Social, emotional, cognitive and physical development should also be taken into account.

Your kindergarten-ready child should be able to:

Social and Emotional Development

- o Use words instead of being physical when angry or frustrated
- o Listen to stories without interrupting
- o Follow two-step directions
- o Ask for help when necessary
- o Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- o Stay with an activity to completion
- o Initiate and sustain appropriate play with other children
- o Begin to share with others and understand taking turns
- o Comply with rules, limits, and routines
- o Be able to recognize authority
- o Interact appropriately with adults
- o Respect the rights, property, and feelings of others
- o Begin to control themselves
- o Dress themselves (button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers)
- o Manage bathroom needs independently
- o Separate from parents for extended period of time without being upset
- o Attempt new tasks knowing it is okay to make mistakes

Motor Skills

- o Hold scissors correctly
- o Holds a pencil, crayon or marker properly
- o Put together a 10-12 piece puzzle
- o Ride a tricycle
- o Run, jump, and skip
- o Walk backwards
- o Try to write, scribble, or draw

Language

- o Speak in complete sentences of 5-6 words
- o Use descriptive language
- o Sing and/or recite nursery rhymes
- o Pretend, create, and make-up songs and stories
- o Talk about everyday experiences
- o Tell or retell stories
- o Enjoy having books read to him/her
- o Ask questions
- o Verbally and appropriately respond to a topic
- o Express her/his ideas so others can understand her/him

Academic

- o Look at pictures and then tell stories
- o Identify some alphabet letters
- o Count to 10
- o Correctly count at least 3 objects
- o Identify own first name in writing
- o Attempt to print own first name
- o Recognize and identify 5 colors
- o Understand concepts such as in/out, under/on, on/off, front/back
- o Participate in art and music activities
- o Know her/his body parts (head, shoulder, knees, etc.)
- o Draw a picture of her/himself including head, body, arms, and legs
- o Use words like bigger, smaller or heaviest to show comparison

Revised from: www.lyonsdenresources.com

If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact your child's pre-school teacher or the following Discovery Elementary staff:

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