

IS IT TIME FOR KINDERGARTEN?

How can I tell if my child is ready for Kindergarten?

Starting school can be an exciting and anxious time for families. There are many reasons to consider when deciding if your child is ready for Kindergarten. These factors may include maturity, motor skills, attention span, and age. Kindergarten expectations have changed a lot over the years and a key factor in your child's success in his or her readiness for school. By the end of Kindergarten, students will be reading stories, writing sentences, and adding & subtracting numbers. If your child meets the age criteria, you may also want to consider Kindergarten Readiness Skills below:

Self-Help Skills

- Wash hands..
- Blow nose.
- Use the bathroom without assistance.
- Button & zipper pants.
- Put on shoes.
- Put coat on & zipper without assistance.
- Recognize own name.
- Able to open some food/snack packages.

Fine Motor Skills

- Holds a pencil correctly.
- Able to write first name (*correct spelling, first letter uppercase, rest of letters lowercase*)
- Uses scissors correctly and can cut a straight line.
- Trace lines & shapes.
- Color a picture *neatly* (*not scribble*).
- Draw a picture or basic shapes (*circle or square*).

Social Skills

- Follow directions from adults.
- Complete 2-step directions.
- Complete short task without adult's help.
- Sit & listen to someone read a story for 5-10 minutes.
- Can stand in a line.
- Take turns while playing.
- Play a game & accept losing.
- Control emotions with words, not tantrums.
- Saying "Please" & "Thank you."
- Respecting personal space.
- Put belongings away.
- Throw garbage away.

Academic Skills

- Identify basic colors.
- Complete a pattern.
- Sing ABC's.
- Recognize & name some upper & lowercase letters.
- Able to produce some upper & lowercase letter sounds.
- Able to write some upper & lowercase letters.
- Recognize simple rhyming words.
- Clap out syllables in 1-3 syllable words.
- Able to correctly hold a book & turn pages.
- Able to read a simple story by reading the pictures or some words.
- Sort items.
- Place 2-3 pictures, in order, to tell a story.
- Count to 20.
- Recognize & name numbers 0-10.
- Point & Count 1-10 objects.
- Able to write some numbers 0-10.
- Identify some shapes.
- Use comparative words (*big, small, tall, short*).