

Ready for Learning Checklist

In getting children ready for school, many parents will focus on children learning their ABC's and 123's. However, to make sure your child is ready to learn, it is just as important to make sure your child is socially and emotionally ready. Children who are able to form relationships, join in activities, adjust to changes, and talk about their feelings tend to do better in school. Below is a list of skills you can help your child develop that will ensure he/she is ready for kindergarten.

Social and Emotional Development

- Listens without interrupting
- Can pay attention for a short period of time to an adult-directed task
- Follows simple directions
- Can play cooperatively with other children
- Can separate from parents
- Is able to handle frustration without harming others
- Expresses wants and needs
- Can identify emotions such as happy, sad, angry, scared
- Tries several ways to solve a problem
- Persists with a task
- Engages in pretend play with props
- Follows simple rules and routines
- Takes turns

Cognitive Development

- Listens to stories read to him or her
- Recognizes and says simple rhymes
- Recognizes letters of the alphabet – at least those in his or her first name and some others
- Recognizes name in print
- Writes first name
- Holds a book correctly
- Identifies and names numbers 0-9
- Counts by touching objects one at a time and saying the numbers in order
- Sorts objects by attributes such as color, size, or shape
- Can complete a 12-piece puzzle

Physical and Motor Development

- Dresses independently
- Meets toileting needs independently
- Washes hands independently
- Holds a pencil or crayon correctly to write
- Can hold and use scissors correctly
- Skips, jumps, runs, catches a ball
- Can climb up and down stairs