

# Is my child ready for Kindergarten?



As your child gets closer to the start of Kindergarten, you might be wondering how you can make sure your child is ready when that first day rolls around.

The checklist on the back of this paper provides a basic overview of social, emotional, and academic skills for your child to work on before the first day of school. Each of the listed skills has been thoughtfully added to the list based on what the Indiana Department of Education says kids should know when entering Kindergarten, teacher feedback, and emotional and social research studies. It is important

to note that every child is unique in ability and rates of development. Although each of these skills is important, it is not expected that children will have every one of them mastered by the start of kindergarten.

The hope is that all of these skills are being practiced leading up to Kindergarten so that as many are mastered as possible by the start of that first school year. If you find your student is struggling in a specific area, there are many fun ways to help your child work on the skills. Some places to look for ideas are:

Online: you can Google “Kindergarten readiness activities”

Your child’s  
school

Your local  
library

Your child’s  
pediatrician

*Kindergarten will be here before you know it, but with a little preparation, you and your student will be ready for a great year!*

# Kindergarten skills checklist

## Social-Emotional

- Can use the bathroom by themselves
- Can eat a meal by themselves
- Can dress themselves and tie their shoes
- Can zip their coat and put on gloves/mittens
- Is respectful of people's personal space
- Knows basic safety information
- Shares and takes turns
- Can sit and listen to someone for 10 minutes

## Communication and Understanding

- Can retell familiar stories, poems, or rhymes
- Can speak in complete sentences to describe people, places, things, or events
- Can have a back-and-forth conversation about an age appropriate topic
- Asks and answers questions about main topics and key details in a book read aloud or other information presented
- Asks questions when they do not understand
- Can follow simple one and two-step instructions

## Fine/Gross Motor

- Can hold a pencil correctly
- Can write some letters, shapes, and symbols
- Can open containers (like a lunch box) and food packages
- Can run, stop, hop, gallop, skip, and change direction
- Can catch a large ball

## Math/Science

- Knows numbers represent an amount of something
- Recognizes numbers 1-10
- Counts numbers 1-20
- Recognizes a circle, square, and triangle
- Can match similar objects and find their opposites
- Can sort objects
- Can create simple patterns
- Can tell the difference between 2D and 3D shapes
- Can describe routines in order using words like "next" and "then"
- Can identify big and little versions of the same object or shape
- Can show adding or subtracting with objects (one more, take away one, etc.)
- Recognizes red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, and black

## Early Reading

- Will sit and listen to a story being read to them
- Looks at words from left to right and top to bottom in a book
- Recognizes pictures and symbols in a book
- Knows the difference between words and pictures
- Can recognize the uppercase and lowercase letters
- Recognizes that letters have sounds and letters are put together to make words
- Recognizes their name printed on paper
- Can hear and make a variety of sounds
- Tries to or is able to imitate rhyming

## Early Writing

- Can use a variety of writing/creative tools (pencil, pen, scissors, paintbrush)
- Can write/draw some letters, shapes, and symbols with help from an adult
- Can sing the alphabet
- Writes or attempts to write their name
- Can express ideas or stories with symbols, letters, or pictures