



## Kindergarten Readiness

Quality early childhood experiences, whether provided by family or a formal program, increase a child's ability to succeed in kindergarten. School readiness efforts support the development of skills, knowledge, and health. The goal is for every child to develop a lifelong love of learning.

### Does your child have these social skills?

- Respects self, others, and property
- Expresses feelings and emotions with words
- Understands and demonstrates taking turns
- Attends to a task for short periods of time
- Accepts/follows guidance
- Manages transitions and adapts to changes
- Shows confidence and independence in choices
- Engages in play experiences with peers

### Does your child have these self-help skills?

- Takes care of all toileting needs, including hand washing
- Feeds self independently using utensils
- Zips and buttons clothes and jackets
- Ties or fastens shoes
- Blows nose independently
- Shows basic safety knowledge
- Moves with respect to self and/or peers' personal space

### Does your child have these fine and gross motor skills?

- Holds/Uses writing tools
- Creates some letters, shapes, symbols, and possibly words with support
- Opens packages and containers (in lunchbox)
- Runs, stops, hops, gallops, skips, and changes direction
- Coordinates movements to perform activities

### How can you help your child at home?

- Read to your child
- Encourage conversations with adults and peers
- Demonstrate and practice understanding of nutritious foods
- Practice healthy sleep routines
- Create experiences (parks, playgrounds, libraries, community events like parades and festivals)
- Engage with your child (car games, grocery lists, pretend play, age appropriate digital apps, songs)
- Praise your child for effort and curiosity about learning and trying new things

### What is Early Literacy?

- Knows letters and sounds are used to make words
- Uses complex sentences when speaking
- Writes name
- Responds to given name
- Notices letters in his/her name, some additional letters or sounds, and symbols (stores, restaurants, etc.)
- Understands how to open a book and turn pages
- Rhymes to create new words
- Understands and follows oral directions
- Retells familiar stories
- Communicates through drawing and emergent writing