

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Kindergarten is an exciting time for both parents and children. Young children learn best through active play and everyday life experiences. They start to learn from the moment they are born and need the love and support of their caregivers-the most important people in their lives. You are your child's first and most important teacher!

Many parents are unsure as to the best time to start kindergarten for their children. Kindergarten has changed in many ways since they were children. More is expected of children academically today, but children also need to be socially and emotionally prepared. Readiness is a combination of age, individual growth, and experience. This checklist is designed to help you examine your child's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Mastery of each item on the checklist is not expected. Most four or five-year olds will *not* score 100%. Instead, this checklist can indicate areas of strength and areas of weakness to consider in deciding if your child is ready to be in kindergarten.

Please use the following scale to evaluate what your child can do:

A. Not yet B. Some of the time C. More than half of the time D. Almost Always

Cognitive Development:

A B C D 1. Identify basic colors: red green blue orange yellow purple pink black brown

A B C D 2. Identify parts of the body (head, shoulders, knees, ankles, arms, legs, etc)

A B C D 3. Draw self with head, body, arms, legs, hands, feet, facial features

A B C D 4. State age and birthday

A B C D 5. State address

A B C D 6. Participate in art and music activities

A B C D 7. Demonstrate curiosity, persistence, and exploratory behavior

A B C D 8. Put together simple puzzles

Tips to help your child prepare for kindergarten:

Children at this age best learn through play. A variety of experiences is vital for your child to develop cognitively. Provide age appropriate toys, which require problem solving. This includes puzzles, interlocking blocks. Provide opportunities and materials for writing and creative expression: crayons, sand, water, paint, paper, markers, scissors, hole punch, yarn, beans, and popsicle sticks. Let your child dress up or engage in other imaginative play (house, post office, etc). Teach your child basic information such as his/her full name, address, telephone number; as well as your full name and where you work. Set the tone that learning is good, fun, and important. Share with your child fun things that you remember from your school days.

Language Development:

- A B C D 9. Tell full name when asked
- A B C D 10. Recognize first name by sight
- A B C D 11. Orally identify and recognize letters in name
- A B C D 12. Speak in complete sentences
- A B C D 13. Speak clearly enough to be understood by unfamiliar adults
- A B C D 14. Listen with interest to a short story (10 minutes or more)
- A B C D 15. Identify picture likenesses and differences
- A B C D 16. Communicate needs and express feelings appropriately
- A B C D 17. Understand and follow directions with at least two steps
- A B C D 18. Use descriptive language (eg: the big purple book)
- A B C D 19. Use sentences that include two or more ideas
- A B C D 20. Recite or participate in familiar song, fingerplay, poem or nursery rhyme
- A B C D 21. Tell or retell simple story
- A B C D 22. Pretend and create songs and stories
- A B C D 23. Identify numbers 0 — 10 by name
- A B C D 24. Identify letters (capital and small)

Tips to help your child prepare for kindergarten:

The development of language (listening, speaking, reading, writing) is crucial to your child's success in school and throughout the rest of his/her life. It is tied to everything children learn or do in school. Parents can support the development of language by talking with and listening carefully to children as they share their ideas and experiences.

Provide opportunities for your child to speak up and express ideas. Listen to your child's stories, tell your child stories, ask questions that have more than one answer, and share your ideas using descriptive language. Encourage others to listen to your child. Play rhyming games. Children learn language when they hear it and use it.

Reading Development:

- A B C D 25. Make simple predictions and comments about a story being read to him/her
- A B C D 26. Recognize print in everyday situations
- A B C D 27. Try to read along with you on favorite parts of stories that are repetitive
- A B C D 28. Pretend to read books from the pictures
- A B C D 29. Know any nursery rhymes by heart

Interest Level: — Choose the category which best describes your child’s interest level.

- 30. Shows little interest in books and/or reading
- 31. Is Interested in books for a few minutes at a time, but not of his/her own initiative
- 32. Shows a considerable amount of interest in books, but has a short attention span
- 33. Desires to be read to frequently for short periods of time
- 34. Desires to be read to frequently for 15 minutes or more

Tips to help your child prepare for kindergarten:

Reading a book to children is an enjoyable experience. It should be part of the daily family routine. It is the most important way parents can help children learn to read and instill a love of reading. Continue to read to your child. Choose from a wide variety of literature such as picture books, poetry books, nonfiction books, nonsense books, and nursery rhymes that will expose him/her to different sentence patterns and different vocabulary. Let your child pretend to read a book back to you. He/She can tell it in his/her own words as he/she holds the book and turns the page.

Visit your local library or bookmobile regularly. Give books as gifts. Point out print in the world around you. Sing familiar songs and stories such as “Old McDonald” and the “Itsy Bitsy Spider”.

Writing Development:





- A B C D 35. Write using drawings and made-up or real letters
- A B C D 36. Draw and color beyond simple scribble
- A B C D 37. Attempt to write his/her first name
- A B C D 38. Ask you to write notes to other people
- A B C D 39. Like to receive notes from you or others

- A B C D 40. Hold writing instruments correctly
- A B C D 41. Trace or draw a line with control
- A B C D 42. Copy or draw circle, cross, square, x, triangle, rectangle

Tips to help your child prepare for kindergarten:

To become proficient writers, children need encouragement and support as they begin the writing process. They will play at writing like they play at reading. Children go through various stages of writing development. These stages include scribbling, drawing pictures, and pretend writing. They will play at writing like they play at reading. Children need to be able to experiment with a variety of writing materials, such as pencils, pens, crayons, markers, colored pencils, paper, and coloring books. Magnetic letters are also helpful. Label things in the room to develop an awareness of writing in the environment around us. Children do not have to have perfect letter formation at this stage in their development. Accept your child’s early writing attempts, including scribbles. Ask them to read what they have written. Have a place to display your child’s writing efforts (bulletin board, refrigerator, etc). Let your child see you writing (letters, notes, lists, etc).

Math Development:

- A B C D 43. Identify shapes:    
- A B C D 44. Arrange items in groups according to size, shape, or color
- A B C D 45. Count by rote to at least 10
- A B C D 46. Correctly count at least 5 objects
- A B C D 47. Demonstrate understanding of positional words (in, out, on, off, around)
- A B C D 48. Make comparisons using words such as bigger, smaller, larger, heavier
- A B C D 49. Arrange objects in size order (from smallest to biggest)
- A B C D 50. Show understanding of passing of time

Tips to help your child prepare for kindergarten:

The development of number concepts (classifying, ordering, counting, time and space relationships) is directly related to children’s ability to perform mathematical tasks throughout their school years and the rest of their lives. It is important to help young children feel confident in dealing with number tasks. Play games in which your child counts out loud such as hide and seek. Play board games that require your child to count the dots on a die. Use household items such as cans, boxes, and balls to explore shapes. Provide opportunities to compare objects. Let your child set the table...how many forks, glasses, chairs do we need?

Social and Emotional Development:

- A B C D 51. Initiate his own leisure-time activities
- A B C D 52. Do tasks the first time asked
- A B C D 53. Finish one activity before starting another
- A B C D 54. Work independently
- A B C D 55. Try new things
- A B C D 56. Listen when others talk
- A B C D 57. Play cooperatively with other children, take turns and share
- A B C D 58. Separate from parents without undue anxiety
- A B C D 59. Show empathy to others
- A B C D 60. Ask questions and seek out adult help when necessary
- A B C D 61. Use restroom independently
- A B C D 62. Clean up after self
- A B C D 63. Care for own belongings
- A B C D 64. Dress self
- A B C D 65. Recognize and respond appropriately to authority
- A B C D 66. Help family with chores
- A B C D 67. Use words to solve problems
- A B C D 68. Use words such as please, thank you, yes ma'am
- A B C D 69. Comply with rules, guidance, limitations and routines
- A B C D 70. Respects rights, property, and feelings of others

Tips to help your child prepare for kindergarten:

Children must be socially ready for school. Parents can help by giving children the opportunity to be part of a group of children either on a playground or in a preschool program. Allowing your child to spend time in a pre-school program will help him/her learn to separate from you. It will also help you prepare yourself for leaving your child in a kindergarten program. Children need to know how to take turns, make compromises, approach familiar children, obey those in authority, and generally be nice to others.

Encouraging your child to develop independence is also important. Allow your child to do things on his/her own even if it takes longer than doing it yourself. Allow your child to select clothing and to dress him/herself. You can lay out several

pieces of clothing and let him/her choose what he/she wants. (Remember it is better to limit the choices of clothing before your child starts to dress rather than have a fuss after your child has finished dressing.) In the bathroom, provide a step stool and a place for items such as soap and washcloths in reach. Make sure your child knows how to use the bathroom properly; how to zip, button, and pull his/her clothes up and down; how to use toilet paper; how to flush the toilet; and how to wash and dry his/her hands.

Give your child small responsibilities around the house (making bed, picking up toys, empty trash, taking care of pets). Let your child know you respect him/her for being responsible. Remember that discipline is teaching your child how to behave rather than punishing him/her for misbehavior. Have high, yet realistic, expectations for your child. Understand your child's limits. Let your child know exactly what is expected. Treat your child and others with respect. Be positive through the use of praise and reinforcement. Accept your child's efforts without criticism. Help your child find words to describe feelings. Show your child how to be a friend. Describe ways your child can solve disagreements with others.

Physical Development:

A B C D 71. Cut with scissors on straight and curved lines and circles

A B C D 72. Paste objects

A B C D 73. Button and zip

A B C D 74. Use a fork properly

A B C D 75. Catch a medium sized ball

A B C D 76. Bounce, throw and kick a ball

A B C D 77. Walk on a straight line forward and backward

A B C D 78. Skip

A B C D 79. Hop on one foot

A B C D 80. Alternate feet walking down stairs

A B C D 81. Try to tie shoes

Tips to help your child prepare for kindergarten:

Children need physical skills to be successful in school. Provide daily opportunities to develop strength and coordination of large and small muscles such as going to the park; playing ball games and tag; practicing lacing, pouring, and stirring. Provide experience with scissors, such as cutting pictures from magazines. Provide opportunities with swings, tricycles, and jump ropes.

Listening Development:

Administer this portion of the checklist orally. Work the samples first in each section.

Using Oral Context — complete the sentence with a word that makes sense.

Child's sample: I can tie my _____. Answer (shoes)

82. At breakfast I like to eat _____.

83. At the zoo we saw _____.

84. We like to play _____ outside.

Initial Sounds — Circle the word that does not begin like the others.

Child's sample: top book tape tiger

85. moon mice baby matches

86. rag cow red rock

87. say seal some dog

88. paper party man pen

Rhyming Words — circle the word which does not rhyme with the others.

Child's sample: bad sad fad cow mad

89. hark lark mark sick bark

90. Roy boy jazz toy joy

91. pill drill sign hill sill

92. plan mine fan ran pan

****See next page for grading and score evaluation.****

Grading:

Cognitive Development: Questions 1 — 8 Score _____

Answers in column B=1 point; column C=2 points, column D=3 points (Goal 16 / 24)

Language Development: Questions 9 — 24 Score _____

Answers in column B=1 point; column C=2 points, column D=3 points (Goal 32 / 48)

Reading Development: Questions 25 — 29 Score _____
Answers in column B=1 point; column C=2 points, column D=3 points (Goal 10 / 15)

Interest Level: Score _____
Award points according to category chosen: 31. = 1 point; 32. = 3 points; 33. = 5 points; 34.= 7 points (Goal 3 / 7)

Writing Development: Questions 35 -- 42 Score _____
Answers in column B=1 point; column C=2 points, column D=3 points (Goal 16 / 24)

Math Development: Questions 43 -- 50 Score _____
Answers in column B=1 point; column C=2 points, column D=3 points (Goal 16 / 24)

Social and Emotional Development: Questions 51 — 70 Score _____
Answers in column B=1 point; column C=2 points, column D=3 points (Goal 40 / 60)

Physical Development: Questions 71 — 81 Score _____
Answers in column B=1 point; column C=2 points, column D=3 points (Goal 22 / 33)

Listening Development: Questions 82 -- 92 Score _____
Award one point for each correct answer. (Goal 7 / 11)

The sum of the scores recorded above equal your final score. **Final Score** _____

Final Score Evaluation:

- > 157 Begin now! Capitalize on your child's superior motivation and readiness.
- 140 — 156 Congratulations — Your child is likely ready for kindergarten!
- 118 — 139 Proceed with a kindergarten program, realizing that your child may need extra assistance if admitted to a rigorous kindergarten program.
- 117 or below Your child may likely benefit from an extra year of growth and learning before entering a rigorous kindergarten program.

*We look forward to seeing you at Our Lady of Good
Counsel Parish School and having a successful
kindergarten experience!*