

# Kindergarten Readiness Checklist



## Language and Communication

- Speaks in complete sentences and is understood by others
- Expresses needs and wants
- Responds to questions
- Understands and completes 2-step directions

## Math and Reasoning

- Identifies numbers 1–10
- Counts from 1–10
- Counts items up to 10
- Identifies basic shapes
- Identifies basic colors
- Compares objects: more/less, larger/smaller
- Recognizes simple patterns like ABAB
- Classifies items into groups by color or other similarities

## Fine and Gross Motor

- Holds pencil/crayon in fingers rather than fist (proper pencil grip may still be developing)
- Holds and uses scissors
- Uses glue/glue stick
- Uses small manipulatives (blocks, beads, puzzles) with steady hands
- Runs, hops, skips, catches, throws

## Reading and Writing

- Enjoys listening to stories
- Retells simple stories
- Identifies most letter names and sounds
- Recognizes name in print
- Knows the alphabet
- Prints first name
- Writes many letters (letter reversal is acceptable)
- Draws straight and curved lines and simple shapes

## Social and Emotional

- Interacts with other children and adults
- Takes turns and shares with others
- Cares for and shows respect for others and materials
- Is attentive to speaker or task for brief periods
- Demonstrates patience

## Independence

- Completes some tasks independently and/or asks for help
- Uses bathroom, dresses, and eats independently
- Transitions from one activity to another

# Activities to Develop Readiness

Use the Kindergarten Readiness Checklist on the previous page to assess your child's skills. Then use this list of activities for fun ways to strengthen specific skills. Do a few or several from each category. Don't feel your child needs to do all of them. Keep it fun!



## Activities to develop fine motor skills

(To develop finger and hand coordination and strength for writing)



- Make instant pudding, sand, paint, or mud. Spread on a cookie sheet and practice writing and drawing.
  - Draw with chalk on the sidewalk or driveway.
  - Save your junk mail and use it for cutting and gluing to make collages.
  - Cut letters out of sandpaper for your child to feel with his or her fingers. Lay paper over the top and rub the side of a crayon over the paper. Watch the letters appear!
  - Make a "writing tool box." Fill it with paper, crayons, pencils, pens, markers, scissors, glue, stamps, stickers, and more.
  - Use *Doodles and Pre-Writing for Littles* to practice writing strokes.
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- Cook and bake with your child, letting him or her stir, crush, and mash ingredients.
  - Set up a "building tool box". Fill it with small tools for screws, nuts, and bolts.
  - Practice buttoning, zipping, tying, and snapping on clothes or dolls.
  - Build with small, connecting blocks.
  - Create with beads, string, stamps, paint, dough, scissors, glue, and more.
  - Find more craft ideas on our blog.
  - Put together puzzles.



## Activities to develop social skills

(To develop positive relationships with others)

- Provide one-on-one playtime with a friend.
- Provide small and large playgroup opportunities with other children so your child experiences meeting and interacting with new children. Ideas: local storytimes, neighborhood playgroups, cooperatives, etc.
- If there is a disagreement between children, give them time to see if they can work out the problem in a positive way before stepping in. Praise your child for pleasant behavior towards others as often as possible. It encourages your child to do it even more!
- Make a habit of using manners in your home. Use words and phrases like: please, thank you, you're welcome, can I help you, may I use your \_\_\_\_, and I'm sorry.
- Teach your child how to share things with others. Children learn from example.
- Play board games as a family to teach proper behavior for winning and losing.
- Make and use puppets or pretend play to learn how to act in certain situations.

## Activities to develop independence skills

(to develop daily self-help and responsibility skills)

### Teach your child self-care skills:

- Dressing and undressing
- Showering or bathing
- Handwashing and nose blowing
- Dental care
- Hair care



### Teach your child how to do simple chores:

- Setting and clearing the dinner table
- Emptying and filling the dishwasher
- Sweeping and vacuuming
- Wiping spills
- Dusting
- Taking out the trash
- Pet care
- Picking up toys
- Folding clothes
- Making bed

## Activities to develop language skills

(to develop listening, understanding, and responding)

- Use a large, descriptive vocabulary to talk about the things your child sees and does.
- Encourage your child to ask questions, and then answer them.
- Ask your child about his or her feelings and share your feelings too.
- Give your child directions to follow. Start with 2-step directions.
- Play guessing games like “I Spy” to practice reasoning and problem-solving skills.
- Read, read, read together! Books build vocabulary, experience, comprehension, attention span, and relationships. It is precious time spent with your child.



- Read poetry and sing songs with your child to expose your child to rhyme and rhythm. Check out our poetry blog posts for more ideas and free downloads.
- Play an imitation game where your child does or says what you do or say.
- Listen to your child with the same attentiveness you expect him or her to listen to you.
- Have your child retell a story you have read to them.
- Sequence 3–5 pictures in order of events.
- Host a poetry party using *Poetry Parties for Littles*.
- Play any kind of memory game.
- Talk about daily tasks in detail as you do them.

## Activities to develop literacy skills

(to develop a love for reading, and to identify letter sounds and names and how they make words)

- Make reading a daily routine.
- Read to and with your child.
- Show your child you love reading, too, by reading your own books.
- Visit the library often.
- Play word and rhyming games.
- Give books as gifts.
- Point out words and letters in your environment: signs, packages, stores, etc.
- Use letter tiles or magnets to build letters.
- Have many books in your home. We recommend books from our Book List or Library.
- Sing songs and recite poetry.
- Put up a family message board to write messages to one another.
- Make shopping lists together.
- Listen to audio books, such as the free ones on our Storytime site.



### Things to do as you read aloud with your child:

- Read in a comfortable space, free from distractions.
- Let your child pick out the book.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Talk about the story and the pictures rather than rushing through the book.
- Make predictions about what will happen next in the story.
- Point to the words as you read.
- Read the title, author, and illustrator of the book.
- Have fun and make memories!



## Activities to develop math and reasoning skills

(to develop counting, patterning, sequencing, and thinking skills)

- Play dice, board, and card games together.
- Plan aloud before going places. Ask questions like “What should we bring? Where should we go first, next, last?”
- Talk about time: how much time activities take, what time activities start or end. Show the time on a digital and analog clock.
- Involve your child in shopping trips. Point out prices and let him or her handle small amounts of money.
- Keep a calendar with your child. Label special days and events and track the days/weeks until special days.
- Build with blocks. Create patterns, count them, or make shapes.
- Measure and record your child’s height.
- Measure ingredients in the kitchen using measuring cups and spoons and a scale.
- Count objects by 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s, and 100s.
- Estimate how many objects are in a container, and then count how many there actually are.
- Keep track of the weather: the temperature, number of rainy/snowy/sunny days, etc.
- Check out our math blog posts for more math ideas and free downloads.

