



Readiness skills by Kindergarten

Learning begins at birth

Through our interactions with them, young children learn the core skills they need for future school success. From day one, connection builds the brain. Through playful, meaningful moments with you, your child is getting ready for kindergarten.

Every child grows at different rates, so remember these are goals to aim for with your child. Use the back of this sheet for ideas for playful learning at home.



Talking and Reading

exploring words that rhyme, name recognition, and sharing thoughts out loud help children build reading skills.

- Uses the words in, on, out, and under
- Can answer questions like "who," "why," and "how many"
- Is beginning to recognize some familiar and meaningful print
- Can answer questions about a book read aloud



Counting and Measuring

looking for shapes and patterns, counting, and using tools to measure all build key skills for math and science

- Touches toys one at a time while they count
- Can add onto a repeating pattern, "like blue, red, blue, red...what's next?"
- Can count out loud up to 10 with some accuracy
- Can add and subtract in songs like "5 little monkeys jumping on the bed"



Connecting and Feeling

social-emotional skills help children identify and describe their feelings, interact with others, and work through conflict.

- Names their own emotions or those of others
- Relates to the feelings of others, or offers to help another child when they are upset without prompting
- Plays with peers in more complex ways, including planning, pretending, or cooperating
- Uses a variety of strategies to resolve conflict with peers



Playing and Problem Solving

play helps kids develop physical skills like skipping or grasping and thinking skills like solving puzzles and working through challenges

- Tries new strategies to solve a problem, like building a wider base with blocks after a tower falls over
- Looks for a new toy to play with, or another toy, when someone else is playing with it
- Explains their ideas about how they solved a problem, or responds to questions when asked
- Can engage in symbolic or pretend play, like using ribbons for noddles in a play kitchen

STAY IN TOUCH:

Tips to help your child headed to Kindergarten

The first five years matter.

What are the Core 4 Readiness skills? The Core 4 domains of development provide an overview of skills children need to be kindergarten-ready. They can grow these skills through play, connection with others, and quality early learning experiences. Try these activities below to help your child learn and grow through playful interactions with you!



Talking and Reading

- Play games like hopscotch, highlighting the in, out, and over
- Encourage your kiddo to write their name on their work
- Waiting in line at the grocery store, ask your kiddo to find the letters in their name on food packages



Counting and Measuring

- Sort the groceries! Invite your child to help sort the items from the grocery store and count them. Ask "how many canned foods do we have? How many in bags?" Count backwards how many are left as you put them away. "Three cans in the pantry, how many are left?"
- Look for patterns around the home. Notice the pattern and ask what comes next. "Your shirt has stripes! It goes blue, white, blue, white. What color comes next?"



Connecting and Feeling

- Give your child a script to help talk about feelings with peers. Say "He took your block, and that made you feel mad. Tell him, I don't like that, or, you can have it when I'm finished."
- Play games with your child, like card games or board games. Model how to be a winner or a cheerleader, by saying "I didn't win this time, but you did. Great work! Let's try again."



Playing and Problem Solving

- Encourage pretend play! Make a play kitchen area without plastic or toy food. Ask your child what they could use for pretend food. Try ribbon or cut up straws for noodles, empty cereal boxes, or pom poms for fruit
- Ask your child to explain it to you. When they are working on a puzzle or solving a problem, ask them to share "how did you figure that out? What did you do first? Then what?" This helps your kiddo sequence events and explain their thinking out loud.

RESOURCES

Goodwill Easter Seals provides free screening to test children's readiness for Kindergarten. Call 937.528.6460 for an appointment.

***Reminder:** Take your child to the pediatrician on a regular basis, and stay up-to-date on immunizations!*

