



Readiness skills by age 2

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.

- Follows simple instructions like “come here” or “where’s your toy?”
- Uses single words and gestures to ask for needs, like “more,” “all done,” or “help”
- Looks at a book and turns the pages
- Visually tracks to where an adult points, like pictures in a book



Counting and Measuring

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

- Says or signs “more” or “all done”
- Adds toys to a bowl or basket, and dumps when full
- Explores with simple puzzles or shape sorters, seeing how pieces fit
- Takes “just one” or “one more” of something when asked



Connecting and Feeling

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

- Waves “bye bye” to others
- Reacts to another child or adult through babbling
- Cries or reacts by yelling when a toy is taken away
- Looks to an adult when experiencing conflict or struggling to complete a task



Playing and Problem Solving

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

- Repeats an action to gain skill, or fixates on a specific, repeated movement
- Remembers next steps in familiar routines or games, like holding up a scarf for peek-a-boo
- Looks to adults to help solve a problem, or signs for help
- Throws, tosses, or kicks a ball on purpose, with some success.

STAY IN TOUCH:

Tips to help your child from ages 1 to 2

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

- When they're showing their needs, vocalize what you think they're asking for, "You look like you're trying to leave the lunch table. You can tell me 'all done' whenever you are done eating."
- Read and reread stories, pointing out things that may spark their interest, and using fun voices and inflection



Counting and Measuring

- When serving food to your child, narrate by saying or signing "more ____" of the food you serve. When you take a plate away, say or sign "all done"
- Explore with drop in activities; try using an empty box with papers or markers, and encourage your child to find ways to "fit" them into the hole or slit in the box.



Connecting and Feeling

- Build on what your baby is saying, "you are reaching for a doll" when they say "dah"
- Give your child the words to help them through a conflict, "that is my work," when a toy is taken from them
- Reassure your child and let them know you are there to help them



Playing and Problem Solving

- Play with a ball! Encourage your child to bring the ball to you by walking it, rolling, tossing or kicking. Talk while you play, saying "toss the ball! Now roll it!"
- Narrate parts of your routine, by saying what is happening now and what happens next. Say, "first we change your diaper. Next, we wash our hands. Then, we get dressed!"

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!

