



Readiness skills by age 3

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.

- Asks questions like “what’s that?” or “who’s there?”
- Uses “me” or “I” when talking about themselves
- Uses 3-4 word sentences
- Uses the word “no” and “not”



Counting and Measuring

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

- Describes size of objects, like “big,” “small,” or “heavy”
- Looks for more when handing out napkins at meal time when each person needs one
- Begins to recognize and name shapes like circles, squares, or triangles
- Sorts similar objects, like a pile of blue toys or all the cars together



Connecting and Feeling

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

- Makes a choice when offered by an adult, “do you want the blue or red plate?”
- Recognizes self in mirrors or pictures
- Begins to identify core emotions like happy, sad, and mad
- With little coaching, can end one activity and begin another, such as “it’s time to clean up” and “let’s go home”



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 a few times to complete a task when frustrated or challenged
- Tries more than one way to solve a problem, like rotating a toy or puzzle piece to fit into a space
- Uses familiar rules in new settings, like whispering in the library or saying hello to a new person
- Plays with familiar objects in new ways, like using a block as a phone

STAY IN TOUCH:

Tips to help your child from 2 to 3 years old

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

- Answer your child's questions with short, factual answers
- Talk back and forth with your child, asking open-ended questions
- Point out what is happening in a story, ask them what they think will happen next



Counting and Measuring

- Talk about the size of objects with your kiddo; use descriptive words, or invite your kiddo to fill in the blank: this toy is so big! Do you think it's big or small?"
- Point out shapes as you move through the day. Invite your kiddo to join by saying "point when you see a circle!" or other shape



Connecting and Feeling

- Allow your child to help get things ready for routines in their day (bathtime, meals, bedtime) and thank them for their help
- Make faces in the mirror with your child and name the emotion you're displaying
- Give your child choices when you can, asking "do you want two minutes or three minutes to finish?" use a timer to support this skill



Playing and Problem Solving

- When working on solving a problem, say out loud what your child is doing. This helps put language to what they are doing. Say, "you're turning the puzzle to see how it might fit."
- Play a "volume up, volume down" game. Encourage your kiddo to get louder when asked, and quieter too. When in a new place, say "this is a volume down space."

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!

