



Desired Kindergarten Entry Skills

We are often asked about skills that would be helpful for prospective kindergarten students to develop. The following list can help you prepare your child for kindergarten success. As you incorporate these activities in your child's daily routine, please remember, it should feel like play, not work. We hope this is helpful to you as you prepare to embark on the exciting journey of helping your child to the best education possible!

- 1. Fine Motor Development** – Strengthening hand muscles is important for fine motor skills used in writing and cutting.

Activities that strengthen hand muscles include:

- Kneading play dough and bread dough
- Stringing beads
- Building with blocks or Legos
- Lacing (cards, shoes, etc.)
- Using tongs to pick up small items
- Spend time drawing and coloring.
- Tracing shapes
- Using scissors

- 2. Reading Readiness** – Children who display signs of reading readiness are most successful in kindergarten. **One of the best ways to cultivate reading readiness is by enjoying quality children's literature with your child.**

Some signs of reading readiness are:

- Recognizes rhyming words (e.g. What rhymes with cat? "fat" or "cow"?)
- Tells the meaning of simple words
- Uses left-to-right progression
- Recognizes upper case and lower-case letters and their sounds
- Demonstrates the ability to listen to a story
- Answers questions about a story
- Writes some letters and numbers
- Writes first name with proper capital and lower case letters

- 3. Math Readiness-** **Playing number games with your child that includes the following concepts is a great way to prepare your child's math readiness.**

- Count objects using one-to-one correspondence
- Recognize numbers 1-10 in order
- Name basic shapes and colors
- Sort by shape, color, or size
- Make patterns with objects
- Match objects of the same amount
- Review concepts such as longer, shorter, under, over, beside, in, out, in front of, behind

- 4. Social and Emotional Development** – The classroom setting requires students to be able to function successfully as part of a group. **Play dates and story time at the library can be helpful in teaching group dynamics.**

Some important first steps toward functioning as part of a group are:

- Knows full name
- Verbally interacts with others
- Exhibits self-control and a cooperative nature
- Recognizes authority
- Listens to and follows basic instructions
- Gets along and plays with other children
- Can work independently