

Are Children Ready for Kindergarten? Checklist

Children are ready for kindergarten when they have the following developmentally appropriate skills, which allow them to function in school.

- They have the language to say what they think, want, feel, and need.
- They get along with other children and adults.
- They understand their own feelings and the feelings of others.
- They have pre-academic knowledge of vocabulary and conversation, phonology, and concepts of print and math including the alphabet and numbers.
- They use scribbling, writing, and drawing to represent and interpret ideas.
- They see themselves as learners and approach learning with curiosity and interest.
- They use their imaginations to play and create ideas and objects.
- They take care of their physical needs (toileting, dressing).
- They use school tools (puzzles, scissors, computers, pencils, markers).
- They move their bodies, legs, and arms with coordination.
- They transition between activities with ease.
- They persist at several tasks throughout the day.
- They function well in groups, sharing ideas, toys, materials, and space.
- They follow two- and three-step directions.
- They sit and participate in circle time and small groups.
- They understand they are going to a new school called *kindergarten*.