



Kindergarten Families

If your child will be starting Kindergarten, it's a good idea to look at the skills listed below and to take the time to help your child in these areas. Remember though, children develop skills at different rates and it's not unusual for them to have strong skills in one area and weak skills in other areas.

Reading Readiness Skills

- Enjoy listening to stories
- Know how to find the first page of a book and which way to flip the pages
- Recognize familiar logos and signs, like stop signs
- Recite the alphabet and identify most of the letters
- Recognize and try to write their own name
- Recognize when two words rhyme (like *cat* and *bat*)
- Start to **connect letter sounds to letters** (like the sound of the first letter in their name)
- Draw a picture to help express an idea

Math Skills

- **Count from 1 to 10** without skipping numbers
- **Match a number to a group** of five or fewer items ("I see three cats")
- Recognize and name basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle)
- Understand *more than* and *less than*
- Arrange three objects in the right order (like from smallest to biggest)
- Name or point to the colors in a box of eight crayons

Self- Care Skills

- Use the bathroom and wash up on their own
- Get dressed on their own (but may still need help with buttons, zippers, and shoelaces)
- Know and can say their first and last name and age

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Social – Emotional Skills

- Separate from a parent or caregiver without getting overly upset
- Interact with other kids properly
- Takes turns while playing a game or other activity
- **Pay attention** for at least five minutes to a task an adult is leading, like listening to directions for an activity or discussing the day's weather during circle time

Fine Motor Skills

- **Use a pencil or crayon** with some control
- Use scissors
- Copy basic shapes
- Make distinct marks that look like letters and write some actual letters, especially the ones in their name
- Put together a simple puzzle

Gross Motor Skills

- Run
- Jump with feet together
- Hop on one foot
- Climb stairs
- Bounce a ball and try to catch it