



## Kindergarten Preparedness

Starting school is one of the most important events in a child's life. Children who are prepared for Kindergarten will have a rewarding and productive year. They will foster a love for learning, fundamental skills, and a positive attitude about school that will continue through their entire academic career.

While there are different schools of thought concerning the optimal student age and development to begin Kindergarten, it is important that families enroll students in Kindergarten with the intention of matriculating to first-grade the following year. Research shows that repeating the same experience with a younger cohort of students may have unintended negative consequences for students. Therefore, to create the best experience possible for our students, we want families to start this journey with confidence that their student is ready to thrive in Kindergarten.

So, is your child ready for Kindergarten? The following is a checklist to see *how* ready your child is to enter Kindergarten this fall. Your child may not master all of these before starting Kindergarten, but exposure to them will build a foundation for your child's success.

### **Social and Behavioral Expectations**

- My child shares with others
- My child can take care of himself/herself (eat, dress, use the bathroom)
- My child can sit and listen to a story for 15-20 minutes
- My child can follow directions
- My child interacts well with other children
- My child can wait his/her turn
- My child can control his/her emotions (has self-control)
- My child can use words to express their emotions

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**Motor Skill Expectations**

- My child can cut with scissors
- My child can snap, zip, button his/her own clothes independently
- My child can color a picture
- My child can bounce a ball
- My child can walk in a straight line
- My child can hold a pencil

**Language Expectations**

- My child speaks in complete sentences
- My child can ask for things that he/she needs
- My child can tell a story
- My child can express ideas about things that have been read to them
- My child can recognize his/her first and last name
- My child can listen to stories without interrupting
- My child can recognize rhyming sounds/words
- My child can identify and write some of the alphabet

**Math Expectations**

- My child can count to 10
- My child can identify basic colors
- My child can recognize basic shapes
- My child can sort objects by color, size, shape