



Pre-K Skills for School Readiness

What should my child know and be able to do when she gets to kindergarten? These are the important kinds of things that will help your child be “ready”. You can use everyday activities to help your child with these skills during the year before kindergarten.

These will help your child with learning:

- speaks in complete sentences
- understands and follows directions with at least two steps
- understands words related to position, direction, size such as alike/different, top/bottom, first/last, big/little, up/down
- talks about a story being read and thinks about what happens next
- matches two like pictures
- can sort objects that are alike by size, color, and shape
- can sing simple songs, repeat stories
- can do simple puzzles up to five pieces
- can point to five colors
- can recognize his own name in print
- tries to write his name
- knows how to use a book, front and back, first page and last
- can name words that rhyme
- can name 10 alphabet letters that I point to

These can help your child be ready for math:

- can count a number of things (up to five)
- can name three shapes (circle, square, triangle)
- understands adding to or taking away
- can put numbers 1-5 in order
- can count to 10
- understands “more than” and “less than”
- understands time concepts, like today, tomorrow, summer, bedtime

These can help your child work and play:

- can tell if he/she is a boy or girl
- can tell first and last name
- can tell parent’s first and last name
- can tell own age
- is able to tell what she needs to friends and grownups
- plays and works with other children well
- is excited about learning new things
- can take care of basic needs like dressing, washing hands, bathroom use
- can be away from parents and family without stress
- knows how to work in a group by sharing and taking turns
- can ask for help when she needs it
- can draw a person with a body, head, legs, and arms

Other things that will help your child in kindergarten:

can use pencils and pens and small scissors to cut a line across paper

can copy things like a straight line, circle, X, triangle

can run, skip, hop, jump

can catch and bounce a ball

uses the same hand most of the time (left or right)

Because of developmental differences and/or physical capabilities, every child is not expected to master every skill before entering kindergarten. If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact the special education department for your local school district, or the Arc of Walker County.