



Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist for Parents



Arkansas's Definition of School Readiness: School ready children have the social and academic knowledge, skills and behaviors for school success and lifelong learning. School readiness occurs when families, schools and communities support and serve ALL children, so they are successful in school and in life.

This list of indicators identifies skills, knowledge and behaviors that will help your child be prepared for that special day – going to kindergarten. The checklist is NOT a test. It is a tool that you can use to help your child make the transition to kindergarten.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Separates from caregiver to another trusted adult
- Shares, takes turns and plays cooperatively with other children
- Expresses basic emotions such as happy, sad, mad or scared
- Responds sympathetically to others' distress with words and actions
- Recognizes similarities and differences in self and others (for example, boy or girl, hair and skin color)

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Is curious, interested and willing to try new things
- Completes a task such as working a puzzle
- Adapts to new situations
- Focuses and pays attention during an activity such as story time
- Engages in memory games such as "What's Missing" and simple memory matching card games

- Uses number- and letter-like forms and/or drawings to represent ideas or feelings

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

- Gallops, slides, hops, leaps and skips
- Steers a tricycle, balances on beam or sandbox edge
- Catches a ball with both hands
- Tosses or throws balls
- Kicks moving ball while running
- Pours liquids without spilling and builds with Legos® or blocks
- Uses a 3-point finger grip on pencil, crayon or paintbrush
- Makes a variety of lines and shapes such as ○, __, +, □ and △
- Uses scissors correctly to cut simple shapes and pictures
- Buttons, zips, laces and buckles

- Names a variety of foods and begins to classify food items as either fruits or vegetables
- Is aware of safe behavior and follows basic safety rules and routines
- Takes responsibility for personal self-care routines such as hand washing, brushing teeth, dressing and toileting
- Can express own health needs such as, "I'm hungry", "My head hurts", and "I'm tired"

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- Understands an increasing number and variety of words for objects, for actions, and to describe things
- Comprehends who, what, why and where questions
- Performs up to three-step directions
- Uses four- to six-word sentences
- Tells increasingly detailed stories or ideas
- Communicates clearly enough to be understood by most people
- Takes turns in conversation with others
- Responds to the English language
- Speaks and expresses self in English



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