

# Is Your Child Ready For School?

While there is not a perfect formula that determines when children are truly ready for kindergarten, you can use this **checklist** to see how well your child is doing in acquiring the skills found on most kindergarten checklists.

Check the skills your child has mastered. Then recheck every month to see what additional skills your child can accomplish easily. Young children change so fast-if they can't do something this week, they may be able to do it a few weeks later.

- Listen to stories without interrupting.
- Recognize rhyming sounds.
- How to wait to take turns in games, to give an answer, and for directions from the teacher about how to and when to begin something.
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks.
- Finish one activity (game, puzzle, picture, etc.) before starting something new.
- Understand actions have both causes and effects.
- Show understanding of general times of day.
- Cut with scissors.
- Trace basic shapes.
- Begin to share with others.
- Start to follow rules.
- Be able to recognize authority.
- Manage bathroom needs.
- Button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers.
- Begin to control oneself.
- Separate from parents without being upset.
- Speak understandably.
- Talk in complete sentences of five to six words.
- Look at pictures and then tell stories.
- Identify rhyming words.
- Identify the beginning sounds of some words.
- Identify some alphabet letters.
- Recognize some common sight words like "stop".
- Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape.
- Recognize groups of one, two, three, four, and five objects.
- Count to ten.
- Bounce a ball.

If your child has acquired most of the skills on this checklist and meets the age requirements in your school district, he or she is probably ready for kindergarten. What teachers want to see on the first day of school are children who are healthy, mature, capable, and eager to learn.