

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten Early Entry: Essential Skills Checklist

Entering kindergarten early is a big step for your child, and it is important to make sure they are ready. Below are the important skills your child should have before starting kindergarten early entry:

Talking and Listening:

- Can talk about what they are thinking and understand what others are saying.
- Can follow directions with more than one step.
- Enjoys talking with friends and adults.
- Knows a lot of words and understands different word meanings.
- Understands and can use words that mean the same or opposite things.

Getting Along with Others:

- Understands how others feel and can show kindness.
- Likes working with others and can be part of group activities.
- Can handle feelings like excitement or anger without causing problems.
- Can solve small problems on their own.
- Shows leadership by taking charge in group activities.

Thinking and Learning:

- Understands basic number concepts and counting, such as adding and subtracting.
- Can recognize and figure out patterns and solve problems.
- Thinks about things in different ways and can come up with new ideas.
- Enjoys exploring new things and asking questions.
- Uses imagination to be creative during play and activities.

Moving and Doing:

- Can use their hands to do things like drawing or using small toys.
- Writes letters and numbers neatly and knows how to space them correctly.
- Runs, jumps, and catches a ball without any trouble.
- Enjoys doing arts and crafts that are a little more complicated.
- Can do activities that need good hand-eye coordination, like building things or doing puzzles.

Reading and Writing:

- Recognizes some words and understands what they mean.
- Knows how to break down longer words into smaller parts.
- Can write simple sentences and tell short stories.
- Can identify letters and match letters to sounds.
- Is able to read aloud a list of regular and irregular words.
- Can match pictures with words to demonstrate comprehension.
- Likes reading and writing, even if it is not required.
- Understands stories they hear and can talk about them with you.

Behaving and Staying Focused:

- Can pay attention during activities and follow the rules.
- Stays on task even with distractions around (or easily redirected focus).
- Knows how to act in different social situations.
- Can handle changes or new things without getting upset.
- Takes responsibility for their actions and learns from mistakes.

Helping your child develop these skills will make sure they are ready for kindergarten early entry and set them up for success in school.