

Kindergarten, Here We Come!

By Susannah Kelly and Susan Walton

Is my kindergartner ready for school? This is a common question kindergarten teachers are asked, but one that does not have a straightforward answer. Kindergarten readiness is built on physical, academic, and social/emotional skills. While academic skills are needed, there are other kindergarten readiness skills that are equally, if not more, important for kindergarten success. Parents can do a lot at home to prepare their kindergartners and make the transition to school a smooth one. Here are some skills that can help prepare your little one for a great kindergarten year.

Personal Needs:

- ◆ Use bathroom on own and wash hands
- ◆ Put on/take off coat
- ◆ Tie own shoes
- ◆ Blow nose on own
- ◆ Cover mouth when he/she coughs
- ◆ Snap, button, zip, and buckle
- ◆ Keep up with own belongings

School Tools:

- ◆ Hold and use a pencil correctly.
- ◆ Hold scissors correctly and cut paper
- ◆ Color with crayons/markers
- ◆ Know how to use glue and glue sticks

Social Skills:

- ◆ Listen quietly to an adult
- ◆ Follow 2-step directions
- ◆ Cooperate and share with others
- ◆ Sit for short periods of time (15 minutes or so)
- ◆ Can resolve conflict in an agreeable way

School Skills:

- ◆ Hold a book upright and turn the pages
- ◆ Know first and last name
- ◆ Can write first name
- ◆ Tell and retell familiar stories
- ◆ Know colors, shapes and sizes
- ◆ Can say the ABC's and count 1-10

Sources:

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