

Skills your children need

Welcome to kindergarten

Here are the skills children need as they *enter* kindergarten. Remember, parents are children's first teachers. Teach in small doses. Use a lot of repetition and no pressure.

Children should be able to

- Say their own first and last name
- Say their parents' names
- Hold a pencil or crayon like an adult
- Hold scissors correctly and cut simple shapes
- Button and zip own clothing most of the time
- Work on learning to tie own shoes
- Identify 8 basic colors
- Name shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle

Understand opposites

- big and little, long and short
- up and down, in and out
- front and back, top and bottom
- empty and full, hot and cold
- more and less, fast and slow
- over and under

Ready to read

- have been read to often and look at books
- pretend to read, like to listen to stories
- know some nursery rhymes
- say the ABCs, can name and recognize letters
- understand that words are read from left to right
- print own first name, and recognize it in print
- understand simple words
- can repeat a 6-8 word sentence

More on back



Hold me, love me, praise me so,
teach me, hug me, watch me grow

Movement

- your child can run, jump, hop, march
- walk a straight line and walk backwards for 5 feet
- walk downstairs with alternate feet like adults
- throw a ball, clap hands
- puts shoes on correct feet
- complete simple puzzles of up to 5 pieces
- paste pictures on paper
- build with blocks

Behavior

- your child looks forward to going to school
- verbalizes needs and feelings
- separates from parents for 2-3 hours
- cares for own belongings
- brushes own teeth and dresses self
- carries a plate of food
- cooperates with other children
- is able to share with others
- waits for turn to speak or play
- listens quietly to a story
- meets visitors without much shyness
- helps with family chores
- works alone on a chore for 20-30 minutes
- sits and propels self on a swing
- identifies other children by name
- is eager to make and keep friends
- likes to play in small groups
- puts toys away
- joins in family talks, converses easily
- maintains self-control
- is learning to respect the property of others
- uses the toilet alone, wipes self, and flushes
- thinks to use the toilet before beginning to play
- learns to cross the street by looking both ways
- recognizes authority
- knows to say "please" and "thank you"
- knows how to say, "I'm sorry"
- is willing to try new things

Children learn at their own pace, though most move through similar developmental stages. If you have concerns about your child's progress, contact your child's health care provider or look for an "Early Intervention" program in your community.

Written with the help of Brown County Elementary School, Mt. Sterling, IL
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