

Kindergarten Readiness

The most frequently asked question is: How will I know if my child is ready? Child development is the key! Each child develops on a different time line.

Here are some suggestions for preparing your child to be successful in kindergarten.

#1 READ TO YOUR CHILDREN EVERY DAY!!! We cannot stress the importance of reading to your children enough! Research shows that the number one way to teach your child to read is to read to them. This language experience will make them more successful.

#2 Curriculum – Most children come to kindergarten knowing how to say their ABC's and recognizing many of the alphabet letters and the numbers 1 – 10. "Sesame Street" and other PBS programs are great to help with these skills. Make these shows part of your child's daily routine in the summer!

#3 Social – Have your child play with other children the same age. Observe differences. Work on ways to settle disputes, get along with others, talk to one another, take turns, share, and listen to a friend's ideas.

#4 Responsibility – Your child should have at least one daily job to do at home before they arrive in kindergarten. (i.e. – take dishes over to the sink, feed pet, hang up coat, etc.)

#5 Listening – Your child should be able to follow a direction you give, just by listening. If not, ask your child to look at you when you give the direction and ask them to repeat it to you before they start.

#6 Fine Motor – Your child should practice cutting on the lines (use Fiskar scissors). Start this summer by having them cut out coupons for you or have them cut around their pictures and glue them onto construction paper to make a frame. Lego building, beads, puzzles, and Playdough all help work those fine motor muscles. Encourage your child to practice writing letters of the alphabet, numbers, and their first name.

If your child can not seem to remember any letters or cannot sit and listen to a story quietly or does not play well with other children yet, etc., these are red flags! Not now, but in August!

If your child can not accomplish most of the tasks we have mentioned or has no interest in them, you may decide your child needs more time to develop. If so, GIVE IT TO THEM. If they are successful at most (not all) of these tasks, DON'T HOLD THEM BACK.

Older is not always better. There is a window for kindergarten, and it lets in the majority of 5-year-old children! However, if you come in before you're ready, everything is too hard, and if you come in too old, many of the activities are going to be too young for you.

YOU ARE THE BEST JUDGE! Be honest with yourself and trust yourself! No one knows your child like you do!