

Kindergarten Skills Checklist

Here is a checklist of developmental skills children need exposure to and knowledge of before they enter Kindergarten.

1. Language Skills

- ✓ Talks in sentences
- ✓ Follows one and two step oral directions
- ✓ Uses sentences that include two or more ideas
- ✓ Recites some common nursery rhymes and songs
- ✓ Can express and describe feelings
- ✓ Tells or retells stories and/or everyday experiences

2. Reading Skills

- ✓ Looks at books or pictures on their own
- ✓ Pretends to read books by reading the pictures
- ✓ Understands left to right movement of reading
- ✓ Tries to read in everyday situations (signs, labels, etc.)
- ✓ Recognizes rhyming words
- ✓ Blends sounds into words
- ✓ Recognizes some common words in print
- ✓ Recognizes many uppercase and lowercase letters
- ✓ Recognizes some letter sounds
- ✓ Describes characters' actions and feelings in a story
- ✓ Relates stories to personal experiences
- ✓ Puts events of a story in order

3. Writing Skills

- ✓ Tries to write, scribble or draw
- ✓ Asks you to write words or notes to others
- ✓ Attempts to write own name and recognizes own name in print
- ✓ Uses pictures to communicate ideas

4. Math Skills

- ✓ Compares the size of groups of objects using language such as "more", "less", and "same as"
- ✓ Arranges objects in size order (big to small, or small to big)
- ✓ Uses comparison words, like "bigger", "smaller", "heavier", etc.
- ✓ Understands concepts of *none*, *some*, and *all* and *more than* and *less than*
- ✓ Identifies and draws a square, circle, and triangle
- ✓ Correctly counts four to ten objects
- ✓ Knows that the final number counted represents the total number of objects in a set
- ✓ Recognizes some numbers, 1-10
- ✓ Can distinguish numbers from letters, and understands that numbers relate to quantity
- ✓ Understands the effects of addition and subtraction

5. Reasoning: Concept Development

- ✓ Matches or groups objects according to size, shape, or color
- ✓ Groups objects that are the same
- ✓ Understands concepts of in/out, under/over, on/off, front/back, etc.
- ✓ Describes how objects are the same or different
- ✓ Experiments enthusiastically with new games and toys, sometimes in a trial-and-error manner

6. Motor Skills

- ✓ Cuts with scissors
- ✓ Puts puzzles together
- ✓ Builds using blocks
- ✓ Tries to tie own shoes
- ✓ Bounces, kicks, throws, and catches a ball
- ✓ Rides a tricycle
- ✓ Holds and uses crayons, markers, pens, and pencil correctly

7. Interaction with Others

- ✓ Plays well with others
- ✓ Takes turns and shares
- ✓ Cleans up after playing
- ✓ Participates in group activities
- ✓ Interacts easily with familiar adults
- ✓ Considerate of other people's feelings
- ✓ Respects items belonging to others
- ✓ Listens when others speak
- ✓ Seeks adult help during conflicts
- ✓ Uses manners

