KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST FOR FAMILIES

Simple Skills to Practice at Home Before Kindergarten

Starting kindergarten is exciting! Children do not need to know everything before school begins, but practicing these important skills at home can help them feel confident, successful, and ready to learn.

READING & LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ✅ **Look at books every day**
  Why it matters: Reading together helps children build vocabulary, listening skills, and a love for learning.
- ✅ **Recognize their first name in print**
  Why it matters: Children feel confident when they can identify their own name on papers, cubbies, and classroom items.
- ✅ **Sing songs and nursery rhymes**
  Why it matters: Rhyming and rhythm help children hear sounds in words, an important early reading skill.
- ✅ **Talk in complete sentences**
  Why it matters: Strong speaking skills help children communicate needs, ideas, and feelings at school.
- ✅ **Retell a simple story or event**
  Why it matters: This builds memory, sequencing, and comprehension skills.
- ✅ **Recognize some letters and sounds**
  Why it matters: Knowing letters and sounds helps prepare children for learning to read.

WRITING SKILLS

- ✅ **Practice writing their first name**
  Why it matters: Writing their name helps children feel independent and prepared for classroom routines.
- ✅ **Hold a crayon, marker, or pencil correctly**
  Why it matters: Proper grip supports better handwriting and less frustration.
- ✅ **Color and draw pictures**
  Why it matters: Drawing strengthens hand muscles needed for writing.
- ✅ **Trace lines, shapes, and letters**
  Why it matters: Tracing helps improve hand control and coordination.
- ✅ **Use scissors safely**
  Why it matters: Cutting builds fine motor strength and coordination.

MATH SKILLS

- ✅ **Count to 10 or higher**
  Why it matters: Counting builds number awareness and confidence with math concepts.
- ✅ **Recognize some numbers**
  Why it matters: Identifying numbers helps children connect counting to written symbols.
- ✅ **Sort objects by color, shape, or size**
  Why it matters: Sorting teaches comparing, classifying, and problem-solving skills.
- ✅ **Identify basic shapes**
  Why it matters: Shape recognition supports early geometry and visual learning.
- ✅ **Understand simple concepts like more/less and big/small**
  Why it matters: These concepts are used daily in math and classroom activities.

MOTOR SKILLS

Fine Motor Skills

✅ **Button, zip, and dress themselves**

Why it matters: Independence with clothing helps children manage daily school routines.

✅ **Use glue, crayons, and scissors**

Why it matters: These tools strengthen hand muscles and coordination.

Gross Motor Skills

✅ **Run, jump, hop, and climb safely**

Why it matters: Physical activity builds coordination, balance, and confidence.

✅ **Throw and catch a ball**

Why it matters: These skills improve coordination and teamwork during play.

SOCIAL SKILLS

✅ **Take turns and share with others**

Why it matters: Cooperation helps children build friendships and work in groups.

✅ **Follow simple directions**

Why it matters: Listening and following instructions are important classroom skills.

✅ **Use words to solve problems**

Why it matters: Children learn healthy ways to express feelings and handle conflicts.

✅ **Play with other children**

Why it matters: Social play teaches communication, teamwork, and empathy.

✅ **Separate from parents with increasing confidence**

Why it matters: Feeling comfortable apart from caregivers helps children adjust to school routines.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY SKILLS

✅ **Clean up toys and materials**

Why it matters: Responsibility and organization are important classroom habits.

✅ **Wash hands independently**

Why it matters: Good hygiene keeps children healthy and safe.

✅ **Use the bathroom independently**

Why it matters: Independence helps children feel confident during the school day.

✅ **Carry and take care of personal belongings**

Why it matters: Children learn responsibility for backpacks, folders, and lunchboxes.

✅ **Try new activities even when they seem difficult**

Why it matters: Confidence and persistence help children become successful learners.

REMEMBER

Every child develops at their own pace. The best way to prepare for kindergarten is through:

- Reading together
- Talking and playing
- Practicing routines
- Encouraging independence
- Making learning fun!

Your support at home makes a BIG difference in your child's success.