

What Your Child Needs to Know to be Ready for Kindergarten

Make the most of the time before kindergarten by using the *Florida Early Learning Standards: 4 Years Old to Kindergarten*. This quick reference sheet can be used as a guide as you help prepare your child for kindergarten success and beyond. This list contains suggested skills or abilities, but should not be considered fully comprehensive of all possible skills and abilities a five-year-old child should possess.



Social and Emotional Development

- Recognizes and responds with compassion when peers are upset
- Can communicate feelings and emotions
- Has positive relationships with peers and adults
- Plays well with others
- Can problem solve with peers and adults
- Can describe personal characteristics (e.g., hair color, age, gender)



Physical Development

- Demonstrates physical play, direction and spatial awareness (e.g., running, jumping, balancing, riding a tricycle)
- Eats and drinks without assistance
- Attends to personal hygiene



Creative Expression Through the Arts

- Enjoys participating in musical activities (e.g., dance, singing, playing instruments)
- Uses drawing, painting, or other form of art to express thoughts, feelings, and experiences.



Social Studies

- Identifies themselves as an individual and how they are different from others
- Understands the use of rules within the family and classroom
- Understands the use of geographic resources (e.g., globes, maps or GPS)
- Understands the role of community workers



Approaches to Learning

- Demonstrates curiosity, eagerness and persistence to a task
- Shows creativity, inventiveness, reflection and planning for a new task



Language and Literacy

- Communicates clearly with peers and adults
- Listens for personal understanding
- Follows two-step directions
- Speaks clearly, in complete sentences
- Continually increasing the understanding and use of new vocabulary words
- Uses age-appropriate grammar (e.g., possessive pronouns, plurals, past tense)
- Continually uses extended sentences
- Ask and answers questions
- Enjoys looking at and reading books, both independently and with others
- Understands how to care for a book
- Can retell a story
- Can identify letters
- Can separate compound words into two separate words
- Can combine two words to create a new compound word
- Can separate or combine syllables and words
- Names most letters (upper case and lower case)
- Can write own name



Mathematical Thinking

- Recognized sets of objects without counting (*subitizing*)
- Counts to 31
- Manipulates sets (*counting objects, separating and combining sets*)
- Creates simple patterns using different objects
- Can identify, describe and create basic shapes (*circle, square, rectangle and triangle*)
- Uses terms such as besides, below, next to, behind and under to describe the location of an object



Scientific Inquiry

- Identifies and utilizes all five senses
- Uses various technologies to support exploration and learning
- Understands the difference between and observes living things and non-living things
- Makes predictions about how an environment can change an object (e.g., *water, wind, temperature*)