

# IS IT TIME FOR KINDERGARTEN?

How can I tell if my child is ready for kindergarten?

Starting school can be an exciting and anxious time for families. Kindergarten expectations have changed a lot over the years, and a key factor to your child's success is his or her readiness for school. Along with academics, readiness skills include maturity, attention span, and fine motor and social skills. To prepare your child to be successful in kindergarten, the following academic and lifestyle skills on the front and back of this page can be practiced prior to the first day school.

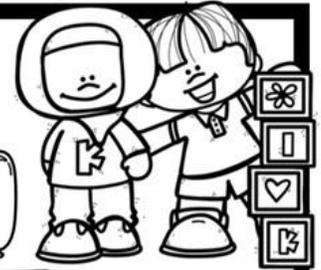


Reading	Math
<p><b>Schedule a time to read each day.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set up a special place to read.</li><li>• Let your child pick out the book.</li><li>• Encourage her to choose all kinds of books.</li></ul> <p><b>Show your child how reading works.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Point to the words as you read</li><li>• Talk about the parts of the book like the cover, the title and the author.</li><li>• Pause once in a while and ask your child to repeat a word you've just read. Then have your child point to the word as he says it.</li></ul> <p><b>Read it again and again.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Go ahead and read your child's favorite book over and over!</li></ul> <p><b>Play word games.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make up some funny rhymes together.</li><li>• Teach your child nursery rhymes.</li></ul> <p><b>Talk about letters and sounds.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Choose a letter or sound of the day to practice. Turn it into a game: "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound <i>mmmmm</i>"</li><li>• Try blending sounds into words, "Can you guess what this word is? <i>m—o—p</i>"</li></ul> <p><b>Trace and say letters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's name and sound.</li></ul> <p><b>Read the words around you.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Go for a word walk. Show your child the words in stores and on street signs.</li></ul>	<p><b>Counting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Count out loud up to 20.</li><li>• Count actual objects, or the number of times you do something.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Collect bottle caps or different colors, shapes &amp; sizes – these are perfect for counting &amp; sorting.</li></ul></li><li>• Recognize number names &amp; symbols.</li><li>• Start to use comparing words: more than, less than, the same as.</li><li>• Play the card game "war" to help them compare numbers. (remove the face cards if needed)</li></ul> <p><b>Algebraic Thinking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognize patterns in the real world. (For example on clothing or a toy)</li><li>• Copy simple patterns, using objects or colors.</li></ul> <p><b>Geometry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Find shapes in the world around them.</li><li>• Model different shapes using sticks, clay, crayons, etc.</li><li>• Recognize names of common shapes.</li><li>• Work on puzzles.</li><li>• Encourage kids to work with blocks.</li></ul> <p><b>Measurement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sort or classify objects by color, texture, shape, etc.</li><li>• Describe their environment with directional words: in front of, behind, on top of, next to, below, longer, shorter, heavier, lighter, etc.</li><li>• Include your child if you're using a tape measure.</li><li>• Include your child in cooking, measuring amounts, counting scoops etc.</li></ul>

REMEMBER...Children develop at different rates and there is a huge range of what "normal" looks like at this age. Chippewa Valley Schools recognizes that children entering kindergarten have different skill levels, and our kindergarten teachers are prepared to work with children with a wide variety of skills.

# A to Z

# READY FOR KINDERGARTEN



A

I am able to identify colors.

B

I can use the bathroom independently.

C

I know how to clean-up.

D

I can follow two-step directions.

E

I can handle my emotions.

F

I can say how I feel.

G

I can use glue sticks appropriately.

H

I know how to wash my hands.

I

I can be independent and separate from my parent without difficulty.

J

I can put on my jacket and shoes by myself.

K

I can be kind to others.

L

I can listen to a story without interrupting.

M

I can focus on a task for five minutes.

N

I say my first and last name.

O

I can open my food. (lunch, snacks)

P

I can put my belongings in and out of my backpack.

Q

I can ask and answer questions.

R

I can respond to my name when called.

S

I can use scissors.

T

I know how to take turns.

U

I can button and unbutton my clothing.

V

I am very good at asking for help when needed.

W

I can walk in a straight line.

X

I can draw different kinds of lines like Xs, straight lines zig-zags, etc.

Y

Can you print your name?

Z

I can zip my jacket.