



# What Does “Ready for Kindergarten” Mean?

*While there is no perfect formula that says when a boy or girl is truly ready for kindergarten, this checklist can help you see if your child is on track. But remember, young children change very quickly! If they can't do something this week, they may be able to do it a few weeks later. What teachers really want to see on the first day are children who are mature, capable and eager to learn. These things develop gradually from the day babies are born, especially when we nurture them and share books and conversation every day.*

## Children entering kindergarten should generally be able to:

- Take care of themselves (including clothes & toileting) & their personal things
- Learn to share & make friends, solve problems with others & show concern for other people's feelings
- Listen to stories, enjoy books, have conversations & understand directions
- Focus on a task, recognize authority & start to follow rules
- Recognize their names, interact with stories, re-tell stories & make guesses using pictures
- Speak understandably using a growing vocabulary & talk in complete sentences of 8+ words
- Recognize & name some letters of the alphabet (upper and lower case), especially those in their own name
- Recognize rhyming words & the beginning sounds of some words
- Hold a pencil, write their names, express themselves using pictures & use scissors
- Identify colors and basic shapes & sort objects by size, shape and color
- Play matching games & create patterns

