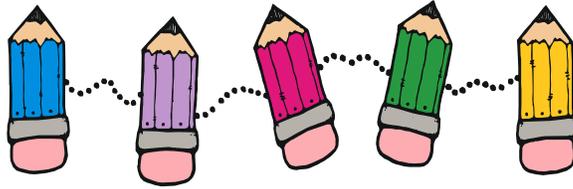


🐾 Preparing For Kindergarten 🐾



Many parents ask us,
“What should my child be able to do when they enter Kindergarten?”

Here is a list of skills that certainly help a child going to Kindergarten, but if your child is not doing all of the items on the list, please do not panic! All kids learn to crawl and walk at different times and the same goes for many school skills too!

So, when reviewing the following list, please just use it as a general rule of thumb or a starting point for what to work on with your child prior to Kindergarten.

1. Read/recognize first name
2. Write first name (in Kindergarten, we start right from the beginning of the year with the uppercase first letter, lowercase for all other letters. For example, Abby vs. ABBY)
3. Recognize numbers 0-10
4. Count to 10 or 20 out loud
5. Recognize basic shapes (circle, triangle, square, rectangle, oval, diamond, heart)
6. Label colors (red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, black, brown, white, pink)
7. Recognize and label some letters of the alphabet
8. Able to use and handle child size scissors
9. Experience with markers, pencils, and crayons

A great website to practice letter recognition, letter sounds, and reading skills is www.starfall.com. We use this site on a regular basis in Kindergarten!

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

To do well in school, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. It is also important that your child is physically, socially, and emotionally ready for school. This checklist can help serve as your guide; but please remember, young children change so fast! If they cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple weeks later.

Is your child ready for Kindergarten? Ask yourself these questions:

Development Area	Tips & Activities to Help Prepare Your Child
<p>Physical Skills Does your child . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing; • Draw and trace basic shapes; • Cut with scissors; • Bounce a ball; or • Ride a tricycle? 	<p><i>Limit TV time. Give your child time each day to play outdoors.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials that will help your child develop the motor skills needed to write include crayons, markers, pencils, glue, scissors, paper, paint, puzzles, Legos, and blocks. • Activities that will help your child's coordination include climbing, jumping, skipping, playing ball, using playground equipment, and riding a tricycle.
<p>Health & Safety Needs Has your child . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had required shots; • Had a dental exam; • Had a vision exam; • Learned own first and last name; • Learned first and last name of parent(s); • Learned to watch for cars when crossing the street; • Learned to not talk to strangers; • Developed a set routine for going to bed; or • Learned to follow rules of safety? 	<p><i>Children need to be healthy in order for learning to occur. Make sure immunizations are up-to-date and your child has had a recent check-up.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your child learn their full name, address, and telephone number. • Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street. • Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help. • Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.
<p>Personal Needs Without your help, can your child . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the bathroom; • Wash hands; • Brush teeth; • Use a tissue to blow nose; • Button and zip up shirt and pants; • Tie and/or vecro shoes? 	<p><i>Encourage you child to try things they've learning before asking for help. Praise their attempts whether or not successful on the first try.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth-brushing routines. • Allow your child to dress themselves. • Practice putting shoes on. • Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.
<p>Social & Emotional Skills Does your child . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play well with other children; • Separate from a parent without getting upset; • Share with other children; • Care about the feelings of others; • Follow routines; or • Put toys away when asked? 	<p><i>Your child needs to feel excited and comfortable about starting Kindergarten. Talk with them about what to expect. Listen to their thoughts and ideas about school. Let them know what you are excited too!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give your child small chores to learn responsibility. • Help your child learn to follow directions by giving simple steps. • Encourage your child to share. • Praise your child when he/she does something well. • Provide guidance when your child is having difficulty.