

Skills Your Child Needs for Kindergarten

Language Skills

- Speaks in complete sentences.
- Can be understood by others most of the time.
- Uses words to express needs and wants.
- Understands two-step directions.
- Makes comparisons and describes relationships between objects such as big/little, under/over and first/last.

Fine Motor Skills

- Uses a pencil or crayon with some control.
- Can use scissors.
- Copies basic shapes.
- Uses a pencil or crayon to make markings on paper including lines, symbols and attempts at alphabet letters.
- Does a simple puzzle.

Gross Motor Skills

- Runs.
- Can jump with feet together.
- Hops on one foot.
- Climbs stairs.
- Bounces and tries to catch a ball.

Math Skills

- Counts from 1 to 10 without skipping numbers.
- Matches a number to a group of five or fewer items (“I see three cats and four dogs”).
- Names and recognizes basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle).
- Understands *more than* and *less than*.
- Can name or point to the colors in a box of eight crayons.
- Can arrange three picture cards or objects in the right order (such as from smallest to biggest).

Reading Readiness Skills

- Enjoys listening to stories and knows how to find the first page of a book and which way to flip the pages.
- Recognizes familiar logos and signs, such as stop signs.
- Can recite the alphabet and identify most of the letters.
- Recognizes and tries to write own name.
- Recognizes when two words rhyme (such as *cat* and *bat*).
- Begins to connect letter sounds to letters (such as the sound of the first letter in her name).
- Can draw a picture to express an idea.

Skills Your Child Needs for Kindergarten *(continued)*

Self-Care Skills

- Uses the bathroom and washes up independently.
- Does basic self-dressing (may still need help with buttons, zippers and shoelaces).
- Knows and can say full name and age.

Social and Emotional Skills

- Can separate from you without getting overly upset.
- Interacts with other kids.
- Can pay attention for at least five minutes to a task an adult is leading, such as listening to directions for an activity or discussing the day's weather during circle time.