

# Kindergarten Readiness Skills Checklist

Review the checklist with your rising Kindergartner to see what areas they have accomplished and what they may need assistance with before entering Kindergarten.

## Alphabet & Early Literacy

- Help your child recognize and name uppercase and lowercase letters
- Practice identifying the first sound in words (e.g., "football" starts with /f/)
- Play with rhyming words (e.g., "Do cat and hat rhyme?")
- Read together daily, asking questions about the story
- Help your child write their name (capitalize first letter only)

## Numbers & Math Concepts

- Practice counting to 25 and recognizing written numbers
- Count everyday objects (up to 10 items) by touching each item as it is counted
- Identify basic shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle)
- Sort objects by attributes (color, size, shape)
- Use positional words in daily activities (up/down, over/under, in front of/behind)

## Motor Skills

- Practice cutting with scissors on lines and curves
- Encourage proper pencil grip when drawing and coloring
- Work on self-help skills (zipping, buttoning, opening containers)
- Strengthen hand muscles with playdough and similar activities
- Practice physical skills daily (running, jumping, skipping, ball bouncing)

## Listening & Following Directions

- Give clear 2-3 step directions for your child to follow
- Play games like Simon Says that require careful listening
- Reduce distractions during learning activities
- Have your child repeat back instructions before starting tasks
- Practice activities that require sustained attention (5-10 minutes)

## Language Development

- Encourage speaking in complete sentences
- Ask open-ended questions requiring more than yes/no answers
- Have your child retell stories in sequence
- Practice using descriptive words to explain objects and events
- Help your child express needs and emotions verbally

## Social-Emotional Skills

- Create opportunities to practice sharing and taking turns
- Teach phrases to use when help is needed
- Role-play how to handle frustration and disappointment
- Arrange playdates to practice peer interaction
- Encourage independence in daily routines

## Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

- Ask "why" and "what if" questions to encourage reasoning
- Let your child solve simple problems independently
- Play games that require strategic thinking
- Encourage observation and asking questions
- Talk through the steps of solving everyday problems

## Work Habits & Independence

- Establish consistent daily routines
- Practice staying on task until completion
- Encourage cleaning up after activities
- Teach responsibility for personal belongings
- Celebrate effort and improvement, not just results

## Visual Discrimination

- Play "spot the difference" games with similar pictures
- Practice matching identical letters, shapes, and patterns
- Find specific letters or shapes in environmental print
- Sort objects by multiple attributes simultaneously
- Create patterns and have your child continue them

## Phonological Awareness

- Clap out syllables in words
- Blend sounds together to make words (/c/-/a/-/t/ = cat)
- Segment words into individual sounds (dog = /d/-/o/-/g/)
- Identify words that begin with the same sound
- Practice replacing beginning sounds in words