

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Ready?

Set?

Go!

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The Ready Child Equation



- * Children's readiness for school
- * School's readiness for children
- * Capacity of families and communities to provide developmental opportunities to our young children

It isn't your Mother's kindergarten anymore!

30 years ago

- * The focus was on socialization
- * Most kindergartens were half day programs
- * 5% of kindergarteners could read at the end of the year

Now

- * The focus is on learning specific skills
- * Most kindergartens are full day programs
- * 90% of kindergarteners can read at the end of the year

Sounds scary, but it's really not! Our goal is:

To build lifelong good feelings about learning and school and to set strong foundations of developmental skills upon which kids can build more complex thinking and learning abilities.



Top Readiness Skills for Kindergarten

- * Enthusiasm Toward Learning
- * Solid Oral-Language Skills
- * The Ability to Listen
- * The Desire to be Independent
- * The Ability to Play Well with Others
- * Strong Fine-Motor Skills
- * Basic Letter and Number Recognition



Enthusiasm Toward Learning

Help your child explore and discover
Encourage him to ask questions
Give her the gift of struggling a bit
when things are difficult



Solid Oral Language Skills

Reading books builds at least 50% more vocabulary than watching TV

Ask open-ended questions

Give her words to describe things and feelings

Talk about what you're doing throughout your day



The Ability to Listen

Read with your child in a comfortable setting using engaging techniques

Play games with rhymes and beginning sounds

Have your child retell stories she's heard



The Desire to be Independent

Don't do for your child what she can do for herself

Give simple directions with two-steps
Encourage and applaud their efforts
to take care of themselves



The Ability to Play Well with Others

Help him use his words to express his feelings and needs

Support him and his friends to find ways to resolve conflict

Talk about how others might feel



Strong Fine-Motor Skills

Encourage lots of strength-building and coordination for her hands

Give opportunities with scissors and writing tools



Basic Letter and Number Recognition

Make this fun and part of your everyday life—no drilling!

Talk about letters in the signs you see

Help him write his name and find other letters that are in his name

Count as you do daily chores

Mainly, give your child your love and support!

No one is more important to your child's learning than you are, and helping him or her grow and develop will be one of your greatest joys. We're here to help you all along the way....

