



Helpful PreKINDER Skills

- Write and recognize name
- Count and recognize numbers to 10
- Can count objects to 15
- Write numbers to 10
- Recognize and write at least 75% of the letters of the Alphabet
- Use scissors to cut basic colors and shapes
- Follow simple 3-step directions
- Sit Still for at least 15 minutes
- Know some letter sounds
- Hold pencil correctly
- Be able to express themselves
- Understands taking turns

What to Work on Before Starting Kindergarten

- Recognize basic sight words (and, of, the, etc.)
- Learn to tie shoes
- Pump on a swing
- Count by 10's and 100's
- Recite the days of the week
- Begin, point to each word, and go from left to right
- Identify and extend simple patterns (ABA etc.)
- Take responsibility for their things by cleaning up after self / carrying own stuff / putting things away / remembering when to bring things
- Begin rhyming words

Top 10 Signs of a Good Kindergarten Classroom

Kindergarten is a time for children to develop their love of learning, expand their general knowledge, improve their ability to get along with others, and their interest in reaching out to the world. While kindergarten marks an important transition from preschool to the primary grades, it is important that children still get to be children—getting kindergarteners ready for elementary school does not mean substituting academics for play time, forcing children to master first grade “skills”, or relying on standardized tests to assess children's success. Kindergarten “curriculum” actually includes such events as snack time, recess, and individual and group activities in addition to those activities we think of as traditionally educational. Developmentally appropriate kindergarten classrooms encourage the strengths. Kindergarten children will continue to develop control of their own behavior through the guidance and support of warm, caring adults. At this stage, children are already eager to learn and possess an innate curiosity. Teachers with a strong background in early childhood education and child development can best provide for children what they need to grow physically, emotionally, and intellectually. Here are 10 signs of a good kindergarten classroom:

1. Children are playing and working with materials or other children. They are not aimlessly wandering or forced to sit quietly for long periods of time.
2. Children have access to various activities throughout the day, such as block building, pretend play, picture books, paints and other art materials, and table toys such as Legos, pegboards, and puzzles. Children are not all doing the same things at the same time.
3. Teachers work with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend time only with the entire group.
4. The classroom is decorated with children's original artwork, their own writing with invented spelling, and dictated stories.
5. Children learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. Exploring the natural world of plants and animals, cooking, taking attendance, and serving snack are all meaningful activities to children.
6. Children work on projects and have long periods of time (at least one hour) to play and explore. Filling out worksheets should not be their primary activity.
7. Children have an opportunity to play outside every day that weather permits. This play is never sacrificed for more instructional time.
8. Teachers read books to children throughout the day, not just at group story time.
9. Curriculum is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. Because children differ in experiences and background, they do not learn the same things at the same way.
10. Children and their parents look forward to school. Parents feel safe sending their child to kindergarten. Children are happy.

Individual kindergarten classrooms will vary, and curriculum will vary according to the interests and backgrounds of the children. But all developmentally appropriate kindergarten classrooms will have one thing in common: the focus will be on the development of the child as a whole.