

# gearing up for Kindergarten

## How do I know if my child is ready to start kindergarten?

First, it is important to know if your child meets the state minimum age requirement of five-years-old on or before August 1 of the kindergarten year. Next, the following skills show kindergarten readiness

### Emotional and Social Skills

- Gets along with others, shares, plays, takes turns and participates in activities
- Takes care of toilet needs independently (flushes, washes hands)
- Demonstrates self-help skills (buttons, zips, snaps)
- Can dress for outside play independently with adult supervision
- Pays attention to a short story when it is read aloud (looks at speaker, listens quietly)
- Remembers directions and carries out 2 or 3 simple tasks after being told (pick up the book, bring me the pencil and close the door)
- Keeps track of and can be responsible for personal belongings
- Separates easily from parent
- Uses words to obtain attention appropriately
- Accepts limits and will change his or her behavior when provided with verbal directions
- Shows curiosity and interest in learning



### Motor Skills

- Alternates feet walking down stairs
- Can run, jump and hop
- Can throw and catch a ball
- Can print first name (Next steps: use capital letter at the beginning and lower case for the rest)
- Draws and colors, beyond a simple scribble
- Uses scissors, pencils, crayons, glue and glue sticks carefully
- Can name and copy a square, circle, triangle and rectangle
- Can cut out simple shapes



### Cognitive Skills

- Can retell a story using pictures and answer simple questions about it
- Repeats simple rhymes (nursery rhymes, simple songs)
- Uses five-six word sentences
- Can express needs, can be understood
- Can recognize name and letters in own name

- Recognizes some letters of the alphabet
- Can recognize numerals 0-10 in random order
- Can count out loud to 20
- Can recognize eight basic colors
- Understands terms such as: big, little, up, down, over, under, empty, full, more, less, between, next to, long, short, front, back, hot, cold, fast, slow, first, and last



### **Work Skills**

- Keeps hands, arms and feet to self when working and playing with others
- Waits appropriately and can stay focused on a task
- Uses materials and toys respectfully, purposefully and appropriately