



Kindergarten readiness checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

Skills many students have by the time they start kindergarten, grouped the way early-learning guidelines group them. Every student develops at their own pace, so use it to see what to practice, not as a test.

Getting along with others

- ☐ Takes turns and follows the rules when playing games with others
- ☐ Does simple chores at home, like matching socks or clearing the table after eating
- ☐ Sings, dances or acts for you

Talking and listening

- ☐ Tells a story, heard or made up, with at least two events
- ☐ Answers simple questions about a book or story after you read or tell it
- ☐ Keeps a conversation going with more than three back-and-forth exchanges
- ☐ Uses or recognizes simple rhymes, like bat-cat or ball-tall

Letters and early reading

- ☐ Names some letters when you point to them
- ☐ Writes some letters in their own name

Numbers and math

- ☐ Counts to 10
- ☐ Names some numbers between 1 and 5 when you point to them

Attention and thinking

- ☐ Pays attention for 5 to 10 minutes during an activity like story time or crafts (screen time does not count)
- ☐ Uses words about time, like yesterday, tomorrow, morning and night

Moving and doing

- ☐ Buttons some buttons
- ☐ Hops on one foot

Ready for more math?

- ☐ Counts out loud to 20
- ☐ Counts objects, saying one number for each
- ☐ Knows the numbers 0 to 10
- ☐ Tells which group has more, fewer or the same
- ☐ Names basic shapes
- ☐ Sorts objects into groups
- ☐ Continues a simple pattern
- ☐ Compares bigger, longer and taller, and uses above and below

What the research says

Early math skills at kindergarten entry were the strongest predictor of later school achievement, followed by early reading and attention skills, across six large studies.

Duncan et al. (2007), School readiness and later achievement, *Developmental Psychology* 43(6)

Number sense in kindergarten (counting, comparing quantities, knowing numbers) predicted math achievement through third grade.

Jordan, Kaplan, Ramineni & Locuniak (2009), Early math matters, *Developmental Psychology* 45(3)

The CDC milestones were revised so each one is a skill most students (75% or more) show by that age, which makes them a fair guide for when to practice or ask questions.

Zubler et al. (2022), Evidence-informed milestones for developmental surveillance tools, *Pediatrics* 149(3)

Items from the CDC's Milestones by 5 Years; math extras from UpOnly's Prepare for Kindergarten: Math. Every student develops at their own pace. www.UpOnlyLearning.com