

Kindergarten Readiness

Many parents ask what their child needs to know before Kindergarten. It is really a combination of skills, behaviours and attitudes that determine each child's readiness for Kindergarten. The following list includes some of the traits that are important for a successful transition to Kindergarten.

1. Respects people and materials.
 - a. Ready to follow rules,
 - b. attempts to solve single problems independently,
 - c. willing to cooperate.
2. Independently takes care of personal needs.
 - a. Dresses self, uses bathroom independently,
 - b. cleans up after self,
 - c. uses tissues and
 - d. asks for help when necessary.
3. Recognizes name in print.
4. Uses scissors, glue, markers, pencils and crayons appropriately.
 - a. Holds scissors comfortably (thumb up position for cutting),
 - b. writes name legibly (tripod hold on writing tool),
 - c. draws recognizable shapes and figures
5. Follows simple directions.
 - a. Listens and remembers what he or she is asked to do independently.
6. Takes turns.
 - a. Shares toys and materials,
 - b. able to wait to share thoughts,
 - c. or receive individual help or attention.
7. Respects personal space.
 - a. Keeps hands and legs to self when sitting in a group.
 - b. Understands when and how to appropriately make physical contact with others.
8. Uses books on a regular basis.
 - a. Enjoys stories,
 - b. listens without being distracted,
 - c. wants to read or be read to.
 - d. Is familiar with some nursery rhymes, rhyming songs, and books.
9. Recognizes some letters and numbers.
 - a. Recent research shows successful kindergarteners identify at least 8 alphabet letters when they begin school.
10. Demonstrates self-control.
 - a. Able to contain emotions, try new things, interact with children and adults.
11. Is excited to start school and eager to learn.
 - a. Ready for independent experiences,
 - b. wants to be part of a group.

