

80 plus SKILLS KIDS SHOULD HAVE BEFORE THEY START KINDERGARTEN

Everyone knows that learning begins at home. But what should be taught? Are there skills and concepts kids should master before entering kindergarten? This list, which was compiled by researchers for World Book, Inc. (a few more added by SCA) on the basis of a survey of 4,500 kindergarten teachers, represents the ideal – something parents can aim for. Don't try to cram in all the lessons at once; teaching these skills and concepts doesn't require large blocks of time. In fact, school-readiness skills are best taught in small doses, with repetition over months and without pressuring your child.

READING READINESS

- Remembers pictures from a printed page
- Repeats a 6 to 8-word sentence
- Pretends to read (and has been read to frequently)
- Identifies own first name in writing
- Prints own first name
- Answers questions about a short story
- Looks at pictures and tells a story
- Understands that one reads from left to right.

KNOWS:

- Letters of the alphabet (upper and lower case) and their sounds.
- Some nursery rhymes
- The meaning of simple words

TIME

- Understands day and night
- Knows age and birthday

LISTENING AND SEQUENCING

- Follows simple directions
- Pays attention
- Recognizes common sounds
- Retells a simple story in sequence

REPEATS:

- A sequence of sounds
- A sequence of orally given numbers

SIZE, POSITION AND DIRECTION

- Big and little
- Long and short
- Up and down
- In and out
- Front and back
- Over and under
- Hot and cold
- Empty and full
- More and less
- Fast and slow
- Top and bottom

COLORS AND SHAPES RECOGNITION

- Primary colors
- Triangles, circles, squares/rectangles

NUMBERS

- Counts to 50
- Can count objects
- Can write and recognize numbers 1-10

MOTOR SKILLS IS ABLE TO:

- Run
- Walk a straight line
- Jump
- Hop
- Alternate feet walking downstairs
- March
- Stand on one foot 5 to 10 seconds
- Walk backward for 5 feet
- Throw a ball

- Paste pictures on paper
- Clap hands
- Button clothes
- Build with blocks
- Complete simple puzzles (5 pieces or fewer)
- Draw and color beyond a simple scribble
- Zip clothes
- Control pencil and crayon well
- Handle scissors
- Cut and draw simple shapes

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Expresses self verbally
- Identifies other children by name
- Can be away from parents for 2 to 3 hours
- Looks forward to going to school
- Can take care of toilet needs independently
- Cares for own belongings
- Dresses self
- Brushes teeth
- Joins in family conversation
- Carries a plate of food
- Maintains self-control
- Gets along with other children
- Recognizes authority
- Shares with others
- Talks easily
- Meets visitors without shyness
- Puts away toys
- Helps with family chores
- Works independently

KNOWS:

- Body parts
- Own first name
- Parents' names
- Home address
- Home phone number
- When to use a tissue
- Own sex