

Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten



An Early Childhood Guide for School Readiness



Getting a child ready for school is a shared process. By working together, parents, teachers, and childcare providers can ensure children have the skills they need to be successful in school and in life.



Children develop at different rates. Kindergarten readiness skills serve as benchmarks for parents and childcare providers.

Familiarize yourself with the appropriate kindergarten readiness skills. This will help your child be better prepared for a successful school beginning.

If your child shows delay in any kindergarten readiness skill, it doesn't mean that he/she is not ready for kindergarten. However, developmental concerns should be discussed with your child's doctor.



Visit monroesmartstart.org to learn more and to see our kindergarten preparation checklist.

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A special thanks to Rosenplot Design 

In order to create kindergarten success, my family will:

- Complete my kindergarten registration in April for the school I will attend in the fall.
- Take me to visit the school I will be attending.
- Share information about my culture, learning styles, and my individual needs.
- Support school expectations.
- Display respect to school personnel.



In order to make sure I'm successful, my school will:

- Invite me to visit the school I will be attending.
- Involve my family in my classroom learning.
- Inform my family of community services.
- Notify my family of any questions or concerns.
- Offer invitations for my family to participate in school activities.
- Make student expectations clear.

If children were able to tell us what they need to be successful in school, they might say:

I need to get along with others.

- Respond to my cries and I will learn that you understand my signals.
- Be polite to others. This shows me the importance of being nice.
- Teach me to verbalize my emotions rather than using physical means.
- Give me opportunities to engage with other children. Take me to playgroups and invite kids to my house.

I need to learn how to communicate.

- Talk to me while you're driving, changing my diaper, or making dinner. Talk to me all day.
- Include me in your conversations with others.
- Teach me how to know when it's my turn to speak. Teach me how to listen.

I need encouragement for difficult tasks.

- Help me explore new places.
- Teach me mistakes are a part of learning.
- Let me attempt new tasks. If you show me step by step, it will be easier for me.

You can help me learn.

I need to learn counting.

- Count my fingers and toes.
- When you cook, count how many eggs you put in the pan.
- When we're in the car, count how many red cars we pass.
- If a sign reads 5/\$1.00, help me count five items.



I need to be curious and excited about learning.

- Use everyday moments to teach me. Describe what is around us. Label letters and colors.
- Show me it's good to be curious by teaching me how to ask questions.
- Encourage me to explore, but be patient with my exploration and independence.
- Choose a quality childcare/preschool that helps me develop and mature.

I need to be familiar with words.

- Sing with me. This will help me learn about rhythms, words, and language.
- Take me to the library. Even as a baby, I enjoy exploring pictures, colors, and turning pages.
- Teach me new words. Help me understand words have meaning.
- Read to me every day.
- Ask me questions about stories. This will help me gain understanding.

I need multiple ways to express myself.

- Talk to me in silly rhymes.
- Dance around the house with me.
- Share your feelings. This will teach me words for my emotions.
- Help me engage in creative play. Let's sing, paint, draw, color, build, and pretend together.



Encourage me to take care of my own needs.

I need to use my hands to eat, write, draw, color, and do puzzles.

- Give me time to play alone.
- Help me get creative using blocks, paper, cardboard, glue, paint, markers, crayons, and tape.
- Let me help you. Ask me to set the table, put away my toys, and help with simple household tasks.

I need to have bathroom and self-help skills.

- Teach me words others will recognize when I'm sick, hurt, or need a bathroom.
- Help me learn how to go to the bathroom, wash my hands, dress myself, and tie my shoes.
- Don't help me all the time. Let me wash my own hands, but make sure I'm getting them clean.
- If I ask for help, encourage me to try first, but give me help before I get too frustrated.

I need you. Please take care of yourself.

- Take time for yourself.
- Nap when I do. You will have more patience with me if you are rested.
- Show me that asking for help is a sign of strength. Connect with other parents.
- You are my model for a healthy lifestyle. I learn by watching and listening to you.



Help keep me safe and healthy.

**I need to feel safe
and loved.**

- Always buckle my car seat and stroller.
- Check my toys for lead.
- Put me to sleep on my back.
- If you are concerned about my development, talk to a doctor.
- I am influenced by the people around me. So, surround me with positive people and experiences.

**I need a healthy body
to learn and grow.**

- Give me breast milk as long as possible.
- Take me to the doctor and dentist for regular checkups.
- Familiarize yourself with immunizations. Keep me safe from serious diseases.
- Keep our family safe from harm. Get help if someone is hurting me or anyone in the family.



**I need nutritious food,
rest, and activity.**

- Give me water or milk instead of sugary drinks like juice, soda, or Kool-Aid.
- Give me healthy food each meal.
- Make sure I get enough rest every night.
- Ask for free and reduced breakfast/lunch school forms if our family needs help.
- Give me safe places to be physically active every day.



**I need to use my arms,
legs, and body to make
big movements.**

- Allow outdoor play for me every day.
- Encourage me to run, jump, climb stairs, and move to music, as I am able.
- Give me practice carrying objects, holding utensils, using crayons, turning on the faucet, opening the door, and cutting with safety scissors.



Monroe Smart Start Birth-to-Five Coalition

Monroe Smart Start brings families and communities together to make sure our children enter kindergarten healthy, happy, and ready to succeed in school and in life. We focus on the first five years because they are critical to a child's life-long development.

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