

Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?

As kindergarten teachers, we are often asked by parents how they can make a good decision on whether to put their child into kindergarten. How do we know if a child is really ready for the social interactions and the academic rigor? We have put together a very general checklist of skills that each child should have prior to entering kindergarten. The following skills are state standards for the end of preschool and are expectations for the beginning of kindergarten.

- Can communicate their needs when conflict arises in social situations
- Can focus in order to complete a task
- Can follow 2-step directions
- Can write his/her own name
- Can say the letters in his/her own name
- Identifies approximately half the letters in the alphabet
- Knows basic shapes
- Knows basic colors
- Can use scissors
- Identifies numbers 1-10 in random order
- Can count to ten
- Sorts objects into groups by like attributes

This is not an all-inclusive list but gives you a good idea of whether your child comes in with some of the basic skills to be a successful kindergartener. If your child is close to the October 1 cut-off and is unable to meet some of the above-mentioned skills, you may want to give your child another year to learn and grow. Please don't hesitate to ask one of the kindergarten teachers if you have further questions.

Thank you---we look forward to another great year in Kindergarten!

Werner Kindergarten Teachers