

Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?

Many parents ask us for guidance in determining the readiness of their children for Kindergarten or if preschool or young 5s is more appropriate. Here at Ann Arbor Open, our highly qualified teachers are skilled in meeting the needs of all of our eligible Kindergarteners and all are welcome, but if you are unsure, please review this list of some kindergarten readiness indicators.

Language

- Can speak in simple sentences
- Can use a normal speaking voice
- Knows how to whisper, speak softly, speak loudly and shout
- Can express needs, feelings, and opinions
- Can answer questions and give information about self
- Knows their own phone number and parents/guardians names
- Can relate experiences
- Can ask questions and ask for help

Manners and Social Skills

- Does not interrupt conversations, stories, and lessons
- Is aware that other children deserve attention too
- Is learning the concepts of fairness
- Is learning that rules and procedures are important for the safety and well being of all
- Is learning that rules and expected behaviors might vary from place to place
- Is learning to take turns, raise hand, and share
- Says positive phrases such as: "please, thank you, I'm sorry, excuse me," etc.
- Takes care of personal belongings, materials/equipment
- Knows it is OK to make mistakes
- Knows it is NOT OK to be mean or disruptive

Fine Motor Skills

- Has engaged in many experiences using crayons, paints, clay, books, puzzles, beads, blocks, zippers, laces, water, sand, markers, Legos, scissors, pencils, etc.

Health and Safety Habits

- Covers mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Can blow nose and disposes of tissues appropriately
- Uses the bathroom independently and washes his/her hands Dresses self independently
Attempts to put on own coat, boots, mittens, etc.
- Washes hands before eating and when they get dirty
- Can wash face
- Does not put objects in mouth
- Knows sharp objects are dangerous and leaves them alone

Listening

- Listens attentively to a story for 5 minutes or more
- Can recall some details of a story or video
- Can follow directions, especially those involving spatial concepts (under, behind, over, next to, etc.)
- Can recognize common sounds (household, animals, street, classrooms, etc.)

Academics

- Recognizes first name in print
- Recites some rhymes and poems
- Sings simple songs
- Can tell about pictures
- Enjoys books and stories
- Knows most of the alphabet
- Counts to ten
- Notices shapes and forms