



East China School District

Young 5's or Kindergarten: A Guide for Parents



Deciding what program your child will attend when entering school is one of the most thought-out decisions by parents and caregivers.

Not sure if your child is ready for kindergarten? Parents often struggle with this question. Young 5's programs are specially created for the child who is younger age-wise than the average kindergartner.

Young 5's classes provide support for younger learners who may benefit from the gift of an additional year as well as a smaller class size.

Kindergarten structure and expectations have changed. Children should enter kindergarten with the basic personal, social, emotional, language, motor, and academic skills necessary to succeed in school.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Young 5's Program

- Smaller class sizes
- Builds stamina for academic tasks
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Prepares students for successful transition to Kindergarten.

Kindergarten

- More academically driven
- Faster paced, more rigorous expectations
- Aligns with Common Core State Standards.
- Supports academic, emotional, and social development to prepare students for 1st grade.

The Young Fives program is taught by a certified teacher with an early childhood endorsement. For more information about the Young 5's program, please review our **Young 5s FAQ** document at www.eastchinaschools.org

Kindergarten Readiness Considerations:



Language Skills:

- Talks in sentences
- Follows one and two step directions
- Can express and describe feelings
- Tells or retells stories or everyday experiences.
- Uses sentences that include two or more ideas.
- Recites commonly used nursery rhymes or songs.



Reading Skills:

- Looks at books on their own
- Can sit for an entire book without losing focus
- Understands left to right orientation with text.
- Recognizes many upper and lowercase letters
- Recognizes some letter sounds



Writing Skills:

- Tries to write, scribble, or draw
- Asks you to write words or notes to others
- Attempts to write own name and recognizes own name in print
- Uses pictures to communicate ideas



Math Skills:

- Compares group sizes using "more", "less", or "same"
- Identifies and draws circle, square, and triangle
- Correctly counts four to ten objects
- Recognizes some numbers, 1-10
- Understands concepts of *none*, *some*, and *all*.



Reasoning: Concept Development:

- Matches or groups objects according to size, shape, or color
- Understands concepts of in/out, under/over, on/off, front/back, etc.
- Describes how objects are the same or different
- Experiments enthusiastically with new games and toys



Fine Motor Skills:

- Holds and uses crayons, markers, pens, and pencils correctly
- Cuts with scissors along various lines (straight, curvy, simple shapes)
- Puts puzzles together
- Builds using small blocks



Gross Motor Skills:

- Bounces, kicks, throws, and catches a ball
- Balance on one leg for 5-10 seconds
- Getting themselves dressed, head to toe.
- Stamina to last an entire day with no rest/ down time.



Interaction with Others:

- Plays well with others
- Takes turns and able to share
- Cleans up after playing
- Seeks adult help during conflicts
- Uses manners
- Participates in group activities
- Considerate of other people's feelings.
- Listens when others speak

