

Kindergarten Readiness Indicators



**Help Assure
Your Children Are
Ready to Go to
School.**

**Arkansas Department
of Education
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201**

Give Your Children An Early Start on Success

Starting school is a big step. Make sure that step is in the right direction by helping your children acquire the skills necessary to be successful. The School Readiness Committee has identified 38 indicators that will help get your children's educational experience off to a good start.

Some children will not possess all of the skills included here, but that will not prevent them from entering school.

This is simply a list of skills that will give you, as a parent or guardian, a place to begin in preparing your children for entering kindergarten. Studies have shown being ready to learn means your children will have a head start that will last a lifetime.

When Your Children are Better Prepared, They're More Likely to Succeed

Help Make Sure They're Ready

Children who enter school with a broad range of skills and knowledge tend to be more successful in school. You play a big part in that process. While mastery of any or all of the skills identified here is not required for admission to kindergarten, we hope you will use these indicators to help your children enter kindergarten with confidence.

To find out more about how you can help prepare your children for kindergarten, call Arkansas Statewide Family Literacy at 501-682-4847 or visit us on the web at www.familylit.com where you'll find valuable links to the Arkansas Department of Education, DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Head Start Association and other educational and family resources.

Tips for Parenting

1. Value and have a positive attitude about learning
2. Set aside regular time and space for homework
3. Form a two-way communication between school and home
4. Talk and listen to your children about school
5. Make sure your children are well rested, well fed and healthy
6. Know the grade level requirements and graduation requirements for your children
7. Use the library and other community resources
8. Support family learning through everyday activities
9. Form relationships with your children's school and teachers, and attend school functions
10. Set aside daily family time
11. Support your children's school by notifying the school of your willingness to volunteer
12. Patiently set limits on behavior and discipline
13. Say, **I love you** and **yes** as much as you say, **don't** and **no**
14. Meet your children's friends and get to know their parents

The Kindergarten Readiness Indicators were developed by the School Readiness Committee, Arkansas Department of Education, DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Head Start Association and many Arkansas Early Childhood Providers.



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www.familylit.com

Expressiveness and Language Comprehension Indicators

- Uses effective oral communication skills and speaks in complete sentences
- Understands and follows directions with at least two steps
- Understands vocabulary related to position, direction, size and comparison
 - like/different
 - top/bottom
 - first/last
 - big/little
 - up/down
- Makes simple predictions and comments about a story being read



Approach to Learning and Cognition Indicators

- Demonstrates visual discrimination skills by matching two like pictures in each of five sets of pictures
- Classifies (same/different, alike/not alike) objects by physical features
 - shape
 - color
 - size
- Classifies objects conceptually (things that go together)
- Recognizes, replicates or repeats a visual or auditory patterning sequence
- Demonstrates the ability to correctly put in order or sequence up to three (3) pictures
- Recites/participates/joins in repeating a familiar song/poem/finger play/nursery rhyme



- Retells a simple story after listening to a story with pictures
- Works simple puzzles (up to four [4] pieces)
- Identifies/points to five (5) colors

Phonological Awareness and Print Knowledge Indicators

- Recognizes name in print when shown word cards
- Points to and/or recognizes letters in name
- Attempts to write letters in own name
- Recognizes environmental print or familiar signs in the child's environment
- Demonstrates book awareness
 - Concepts about print
 - left to right
 - top to bottom
 - Book Handling
 - holding book right side up
 - beginning/ending
- Identifies two words that rhyme/sound the same
- Recognizes 10 alphabet letter names, may include those in own name by pointing to requested letter
- Makes three (3) letter/sound matches
- Uses symbols or drawings to express ideas



Mathematics Indicators

- Counts number of objects in small group (up to five [5] groups)
- Demonstrates an understanding of number (how many) and numeral relationship by placing correct number of objects to corresponding 0-5 numeral

- Demonstrates an understanding of addition and subtraction using manipulatives up to five (5)
- Arranges numerals in order 1-5
- Identifies/points to three (3) shapes
 - circle
 - square
 - triangle
- Counts in sequence 1-10
- Understands concepts of more and less up to five (5) objects



Social Emotional

- Identifies self as a boy or girl
- Provides/states first and last name
- Identifies parent's first and last name
- Identifies age
- Demonstrates independence in personal care
- Separates from parents by appearing comfortable and secure without a parent

Physical Development Indicators

- Uses writing or drawing tools and scissors with control and intention
- Reproduces or copies a
 - (minus symbol)
 - O (circle)
 - X (x mark)
 - + (plus symbol)
- Demonstrates gross motor skills (hop, jump, run, catch and bounce ball)

