IUSD School Readiness Program

Empowering Children and Families for School Success

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Irvine Unified School District
School Readiness Program

This checklist is designed to help you prepare your child for school.
Before you begin, remember:

- You are your child's first and most important teacher.
- Each day your child is learning as you talk, play and work together.
- Readiness is a combination of age, individual growth, and experience.
- Your child will develop at his or her own rate; however, your involvement will promote readiness.
- Your child will learn by doing.
- Remember that play is an essential part of learning.

The checklist is designed to help you look at your child's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. The checklist contains items that are important to your child's success in Kindergarten. It is designed for four and five year olds.



There is no one quality or skill that children need to do well in Kindergarten; a combination of factors contributes to school success. School readiness also depends upon the "match" between children's skills and knowledge and the expectations of the school.

KINDERGARTEN is a significant step on the path of education. A little consideration and planning on your part can make this step a rewarding and successful time for your child.



Part 1: Concept Development

Does your child . . .

Criteria	Yes	No	Developing (notes)
recognize and/or name colors?			
participate in art and music activities?			
ask questions?			
understand concepts such as in/out, on/off, front/back, up/down?			
know body parts (head, shoulders, knees, etc.)?			
draw a self portrait?			
demonstrate curiosity, persistence and exploratory behavior?			



Part 2: Physical Development

Does your child . . .

Criteria	Yes	No	Developing (notes)
put puzzles together?			
cut with scissors?			
try to tie his/her shoes?			
enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping and climbing?			
ride a tricycle?			
bounce a ball?			



Part 3: Health and Safety

Does your child . . .

Criteria	Yes	No	Developing (notes)
have a set routine and schedule?			
have good health habits?			
follow simple safety rules?			
visit the doctor and dentist regularly?			
eat healthy foods?			



Part 4: Number Concept Development

Does your child . . .

Criteria	Yes	No	Developing (notes)
arrange items in groups according to size, shape or color?			
group items that are the same?			
arrange toys or objects in size order, big to small or small to big?			
use words like bigger/ smaller or lighter/heavier to show comparison?			
compare the size of groups of toys or items?			
correctly count four to ten objects?			
show an understanding of the passing of time (ie: morning, afternoon, night, yesterday, today, tomorrow, etc.)?			



Part 5: Language

Does your child . . .

Criteria	Yes	No	Developing (notes)
talk in sentences?			
Follow through when you give her/him one or two directions?			
use descriptive language? ("That's a tall, red brick building.")			
sing and/or recite nursery rhymes?			
use conversational sentences?			
use sentences that include two or more separate ideas?			
pretend, create and make up songs and stories?			
talk about everyday experiences?			
ask questions about how things work in the world around him/her?			
express his/her ideas so that others can understand?			
tell or retell stories?			



Part 6: Reading

Does your child . . .

Criteria	Yes	No	Developing (notes)
enjoy getting a book as a present?			
have many books of his/her own and a special place to keep them?			
recognize his/her first name in print?			
look at books or pictures on his/her own?			
read stories or verses to you? (shares verses or stories read, reads or pretends to read books)			
use sentences that include two or more separate ideas?			
pretend, create and make up songs and stories?			
talk about everyday experiences?			
try to read in everyday situations? (street signs, cereal boxes, etc.)			
try to read along with you on favorite parts of the story or sentences that are repeated over and over again?			
see you reading?			
know any nursery rhymes by heart?			
pretend to read books by reading the pictures?			



Part 7: Writing

Does your child . . .

Criteria	Yes	No	Developing (notes)
try to write, scribble or draw?			
have a collection of paper, pencils, crayons?			
like to receive notes from you or others?			
ask you to write words or notes to people?			
use chalk or magnetic letters?			
attempt to write his/her first name?			
attempt to write his/her last name?			
attempt to invent his/her own spelling while writing?			
see you writing (notes, recipes, lists, letters, reminders)?			
attempt to use environmental print to create lists, stories, etc.			



Part 8: Social & Emotional Development

Does your child . . .

Criteria	Yes	No	Developing (notes)
use words to solve problems when angry or frustrated?			
use words such as "please", "thank you" and "excuse me"?			
attempt new tasks knowing it's okay to make a mistake?			
do things for him/herself (dress self, put toys away, take care of own toilet needs)?			
have success in taking turns and sharing?			
interact appropriately with peers?			
ask for help when necessary?			
stay with an activity to completion (finish a picture, build, etc.)			
follow through when you give directions?			
comply with rules, limits and routines?			
interact appropriately with adults?			
respect the rights, property and feelings of others?			

For recommendations on ways to help your child's development in the above mentioned areas, see *Kindergarten Readiness Tips for Parents.*

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