



## Ready, Set, Kindergarten

Children's brains develop most quickly in their first five years. Families, schools, and communities can help. We can support and nurture age-appropriate skills to make sure every child is set up for success in school and beyond.

### What does it mean to be Kindergarten Ready?

*Children will grow into strong learners and adults when we support their brain growth before and after Kindergarten. In Hamilton County, we aspire that every rising Kindergartener is physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually prepared for success in Kindergarten. To do this, they need families, schools, and communities to provide a strong foundation in the following five skill areas: Learning Skills, Emotional and Social Skills, Language Skills, Math Skills, and Self-Help and Movement Skills.*

**Parents and Caregivers:** It is important to check with a child's doctor early, if you feel your child is not meeting milestones before Kindergarten. You can set your child up for success. Make sure they have **hearing, dental, and vision screenings** at their doctor's office or through their preschool program before Kindergarten. It is also helpful for children to be well rested for the school day, receiving at least **nine hours of sleep** per night.

Kindergarten is a year of big changes and children entering kindergarten have different skill levels. Preparing for kindergarten is an important task, but it doesn't have to be stressful. With every story you read, skill you teach, or hug you give, know that you are the best teacher your child will ever have.

## KINDERGARTEN PREREQUISITE SKILLS

*Appropriate for four and five-year-old rising kindergarten students*

### LEARNING SKILLS

- Follows multi-step directions to complete a task
- Plays with other children in pairs or groups
- Shows curiosity through questioning (asks what, how, why, when, where, and/or what if)
- Demonstrates eagerness to learn by engaging in new experiences and activities
- Can focus on or complete an activity on their own for five minutes without transition

# KINDERGARTEN PREREQUISITE SKILLS

*Appropriate for four and five-year-old rising kindergarten students*

## EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

- Shares, takes turns, helps, compliments, and plays well with other children
- Adjusts to changes in routine and environment
- Can use words to describe their emotions (i.e., sad, mad, scared, happy)
- Seeks and accepts guidance from caregivers and teachers
- Knows full name, address, telephone number, and reliable adult names

## MATH SKILLS

- Counts in sequence up to 20
- Counts up to 10 objects, using one number for each object
- Knows colors and recognizes and draws basic shapes, such as circle, square and triangle
- Describes the position of objects: up/down, left/right, behind / beside, in front/ on top
- Recognizes and repeats simple repeating patterns, such as triangle, square, triangle, square

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Listens and responds to questions about stories told and/or read to them
- Can pick up a book with an interesting picture, open it, and turn pages right to left on their own
- Draws pictures and tells their story, even if it looks like scribbles to another
- Recognizes some upper and lower case letters and their sounds
- Recognizes written name and attempts to write their name
- Uses or recognizes simple rhymes (bat-cat, ball-tall) or makes up nonsense rhymes (foodle, goodle, loodle)
- Speaks in complete sentences of at least 6-8 words and can be understood by a stranger

## SELF-HELP AND MOVEMENT SKILLS

- Moves with control and balance while walking, running, jumping, and climbing
- Uses pencils and crayons to trace and scissors to cut
- Can use fingers to control buttons and zippers
- Uses hand-eye coordination to perform simple tasks, like putting together a puzzle
- With adult prompting, can perform self-help tasks such as toileting, handwashing, tooth brushing and dressing on their own

**For more info on Kindergarten prerequisite skills, including simple activities you can try at home to develop these skills and skills for younger children, please visit [www.chatt2.org/kready](http://www.chatt2.org/kready)**