

# Helping Your Child Prepare for Kindergarten

You can do many things to help prepare your child for learning. And the more you learn together, the happier your child will be.

READ

TALK

PLAY

- Read out loud to your child every day.
- Have your child "read" to you, even if they are not actually reading yet.
- Let your child draw, "write," and doodle often. Provide blank paper or a tablet to use that is their own.
- Have family storytelling time.
- Do fun learning activity booklets together.
- Have conversations and be a good listener.
- Play games – for instance, games involving rhyming, counting, matching, or guessing.
- Limit television time to educational programs that you watch together.
- Read road signs, grocery-store signs, fast-food signs, license plates, street signs and house numbers as you travel together.
- Visit the public library often.
- Go to the library and select dual-language audio books.
- Select vocabulary building bilingual children's books.
- Label all of the items in your home with index cards. For example, "door" posted on the front door, etc.

HELPING  
AT HOME

Invite your child to help you with simple things around the house. This will make your child feel important and useful. With your assistance, use that time to help your child develop confidence, as well as valuable math and language skills like matching, sorting clothes, measuring ingredients, counting, reading simple words from a shopping list, or finding a word on a specific item on the pantry shelf.

Check out [www.scholastic.com/parents](http://www.scholastic.com/parents) for more free tools and advice.



Page 5 of 5

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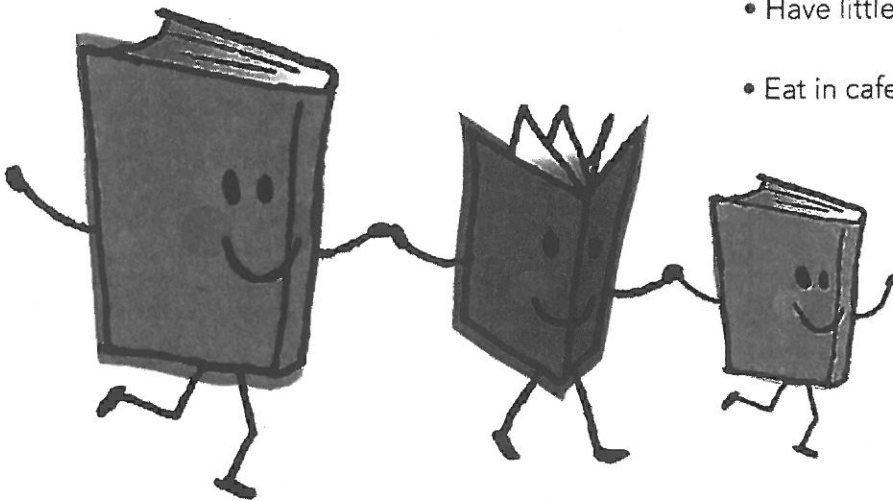
 SCHOLASTIC

Read Every Day. Lead a Better Life.

# A Day in the Life of a Kindergartener

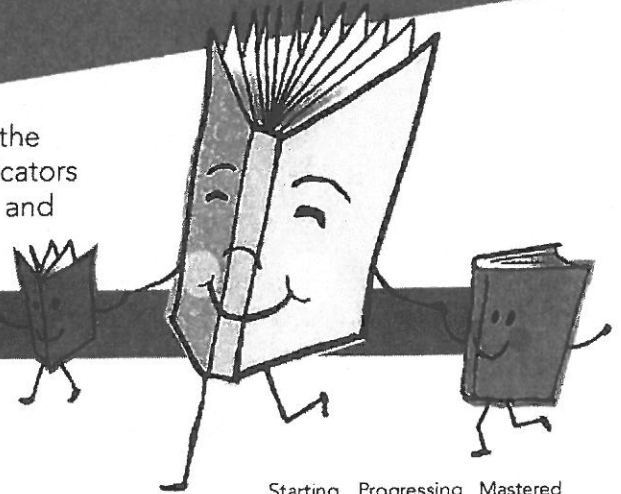
## In kindergarten your child will

- Make new friends
- Learn about the world he lives in
- Learn about letters, sounds, words, and books
- Practice pre-reading skills
- Begin to learn how to read, spell, and write
- Learn about numbers, shapes, patterns, and sizes
- Explore themes and projects that integrate reading, writing, mathematics and science
- Explore themes and projects that integrate learning with visual and performing arts (painting, drawing, singing, dancing, etc.)
- Work in small groups and large groups
- Have less time for recess
- Have little or no time for naps
- Eat in cafeteria



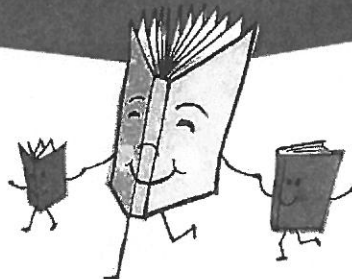
# Is Your Child Prepared for Kindergarten?

Although teachers do not expect all children to have the same level of skills coming into kindergarten, the indicators below are good signs that your child is ready to learn and succeed.



	Starting	Progressing	Mastered
Can say their first and last names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make simple drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hold crayons like a pencil and use safety scissors appropriately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name basic colors and shapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recite the alphabet and count to ten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listen to adults and follow instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Know their ages and the names of family members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Begin to learn their phone number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can sit still for a 15- to 20-minute activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Share, take turns, and raise their hands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play with other children without biting or hitting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play Follow-the-Leader by walking, running and jumping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Express their needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take care of basic needs on their own, such as going to the bathroom, washing hands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Is Your Child Prepared for Kindergarten?



	Starting	Progressing	Mastered
Recognize their possessions, backpacks, lunchboxes, jackets, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gets at least eight hours of sleep each night	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Know the name of many things	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Know if a book is upside down	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Look from left to right when "reading" a book	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognize letters of the alphabet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Begin to write letters of the alphabet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognize their names and are beginning to write their names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Know the sounds that some letters of the alphabet make	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hear the first sound in a simple word like "ball"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hear words that rhyme in books like <i>Cat in the Hat</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Show interest in books, turn pages, and pretend to read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hold conversations and tell simple stories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tell you what they like about a book	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please be sure your child:

- Receives health checkups at least once a year
- Receives all required immunizations to enter kindergarten

# Pre-Reading Skills for Reading Success

To prepare for reading success,  
children need to develop these six skills:

	Starting	Progressing	Mastered
<b>Vocabulary</b> Know the names of persons, actions, places and things.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Print Awareness</b> Notice print, know how to handle a book, and know how to follow words on a page.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Letter Knowledge</b> Know letters are different from each other, know the names of alphabet, and recognize they make different sounds. Recognize letters at home and in the world around us.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Phonemic Awareness</b> Be able to hear and distinguish the smaller sounds in words.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Print Motivation</b> Show interest and enjoy books.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Narrative Skills</b> Be able to describe things and events and tell stories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parents, take comfort. Children learn at their own pace and your child's reading readiness will grow. Be your child's biggest fan.

