



Presents:

Preparing Children for Learning in School

Young children begin learning from the time they are born. As a parent, you help your child to become independent, to get along with others, to be happy and strong and to be ready to learn in school. The information on the attached lists important skills that help prepare preschool children for success in school. Use this list as a guide to give your child many opportunities to grow and learn. Skills are divided into categories such as Social/Emotional, Physical, Cognitive and Communication.

Social/Emotional

Is aware of danger and avoids it (stays away from street, hot or sharp objects)

Seeks out an adult if hurt or needs help

Uses bathroom by self and washes hands

Feeds self independently

Puts on/takes off outer clothing by self

Cares for own belongings (hangs up coat, gets shoes from closet)

Follows healthy habits (covers mouth to sneeze) and washes hands

Follows a routine for eating meals, bath time, bedtime

Separates from parent with minimal upset

Tries new tasks knowing it's okay to make mistakes

Shares toys and materials

Takes turns with other children during activities

Puts back toys and materials, cleans up own space

Understands and responds to the feelings of others

Uses words instead of being physical when upset or angry

Accepts direction from adults without problem

Changes routines and activities easily

Chooses an activity or toy and focuses for at least 7-10 minutes

Follows directions with little adult support

Sits with group and attends to adult presented activity

Participates with others during a group activity or play

Physical Skills

Walks up and down stairs independently

Uses riding toys

Runs, hops, jumps, climbs, kicks

Cuts or snips with scissors, draws pictures

Uses adult grasp (between thumb and fingers) on writing tools

Uses one hand consistently in most activities

Communication Skills

Speaks in complete sentences of four to six words

Follows directions with at least two steps. Example – pick up your toy and put it on the shelf.

Actively participates in conversation

Learns and uses new words every week

Listens attentively to stories and conversation

Makes eye contact when speaking

Asks questions about things around him/her

Answers 'what', 'where', 'who' questions

Speech is understood by most people

Cognitive/ Pre-Academic Reading

Recognizes most letters of the alphabet

Recognizes rhyming words such as hat and cat

Recognizes letters in his or her own first and last name

Begins to write most of the letters in his or her first name

Recognizes his or her own first and last name in print

Recognizes words or signs he or she sees often: for example, McDonalds, Wal-Mart or stop signs and exit signs

Shows an interest in read aloud stories

Holds and looks at books correctly: for example, holds the book right side up and turns the pages one at a time from front to back

Retells a simple story such as The Three Little Pigs after listening to it while looking at the pictures in the book

Matches two pictures that are alike

Tells things that go together: for example, a spoon and a fork are for eating and a fish and a boat go in the water

Puts three pictures in correct order of first, next, last (for example: seed, plant, flower)

Cognitive/ Pre-Academic Math

Counts from 1 to 10 in correct order

Recognizes and names numerals 0 to 10

Counts at least five objects such as five bananas and five apples

Sees the numeral three and counts three objects such as three apples

Identifies sets of objects as being equal, more or less

Recognizes and names four shapes: circle, square, triangle, and rectangle

Understands words such as "top" and "bottom" and "big" and "small"

Looks at groups of objects and says which are the same shape, color, or size

Repeats a pattern

Recognizes how things are alike and different