



# Skills Your Child Needs for Kindergarten

## Self-Care Skills

- Uses the bathroom and washes up independently
- Does basic self-dressing (with minimal help with buttons, zippers, and shoelaces)
- Knows and can say full name and age
- Opens packages independently

## Social and Emotional Skills

- Can separate from you without getting overly upset
- Interacts with other kids
- Works cooperatively (taking turns, shares, etc.)
- Takes responsibility for their own actions
- Can hear and accept "no"
- Can pay attention (stamina for learning) for at least 5-10 minutes to a task an adult is leading, such as listening to a story, listening to directions for an activity or discussing the day's weather during circle time
- Has an ability to emotionally regulate (takes directions to deep breath, take a break, etc.)

*We bring attention to Self-Care and Social Emotional Skills first because these are often the areas our young 5s (birthday June 1- Dec. 1) need to develop in order to take on the academic learning. They are prerequisites to learning!*

## Math Skills

- Counts from 1 to 10 without skipping numbers
- Matches a number to a group of five or fewer items ("I see three cats and four dogs")
- Recognizes and names basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)
- Understands more than and less than
- Can name or point to the colors in a box of eight crayons
- Can arrange three picture cards or objects in the right order (smallest to largest and first, then, last)

## Language Skills

- Speaks in complete sentences.
- Can be understood by others most of the time.
- Can advocate for themselves by asking questions or requesting help
- Uses words to express needs and wants
- Understands two-step directions
- Makes comparisons and describes relationships between objects such as big/little and first/last

## Fine Motor Skills (small movements)

- Uses a pencil with proper grip
- Uses pencils and crayons with some control
- Can use scissors and can cut to follow the lines
- Copies basic shapes
- Uses a pencil or crayon to make markings on paper including lines, symbols, and attempts to write letters
- Does a simple puzzle

## Gross Motor Skills (big movements)

- Runs
- Can jump with feet together
- Stands and hops on one foot
- Climbs stairs
- Bounces and tries to catch a ball
- Can cross the mid-line

## Reading Readiness Skills

- Enjoys listening to stories and knows how to find the first page of a book and which way to flip a page
- Can sit quietly and listen to a story
- Recognizes familiar logos and signs such as stop signs
- Can recite the alphabet and identify most letters
- Recognizes and writes their own name
- Recognizes the letters in their own name