

GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is the grade which bridges students' preschool educations with their future elementary school learning. There is still plenty of playing, singing and crafts in kindergarten but it is often balanced with more rigorous writing, reading and math lessons. Kindergartners also continue to learn and get used to the routines of school, how to work in groups and how to be a successful student.

These skills should be introduced before the start of Kindergarten.

- Identify some letters of the alphabet
- Grip a pencil, crayon, or marker correctly (with the thumb and forefinger supporting the tip)
- Use scissors, glue, paint, and other art materials with relative ease
- Write his first name using upper- and lowercase letters, if possible
- Count to 10
- Bounce a ball
- Classify objects according to their size, shape, and quantity
- Speak using complete sentences
- Recognize some common sight words, like "stop"
- Identify rhyming words
- Repeat full name, address, phone number, and birthday
- Play independently or focus on one activity with a friend for up to ten minutes
- Manage bathroom needs
- Dress self
- Follow directions
- Clean up after self
- Listen to a story without interrupting
- Separate from parents easily

Do not panic if your child has not nailed everything on the list – they will learn a lot in kindergarten. What is more important is to wean them from relying on you to doing things that they should do themselves, such as zipping a jacket or tying shoes.

We hope that these skills listed are helpful.

Your Kindergarten Teachers,
Mrs. Pike and Mrs. McCain