

Kindergarten Readiness

At Children's Garden Preschool, we take pride in getting our pre-k students ready for a smooth and successful transition into kindergarten. Being ready gives them the emotional and educational advantages in a larger class of twenty plus children. We follow California Department of Education standards found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss>.

Below are two summaries to give you a quick overview of skills learned at Children's Garden Preschool to get ready for Kindergarten:

1. Kindergarten Readiness Checklist, by Peggy Gisler, Ed.S. and Marge Eberts, Ed.S.

While there's no perfect formula that determines when children are truly ready for kindergarten, you can use this checklist to see how well your child is doing in acquiring the skills found on most kindergarten checklists.

Check the skills your child has mastered. Then recheck every month to see what additional skills your child can accomplish easily.

Young children change so fast -- if they can't do something this week, they may be able to do it a few weeks later.

- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Recognize rhyming sounds
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Understand actions have both causes and effects
- Show understanding of general times of day
- Cut with scissors
- Trace basic shapes
- Begin to share with others
- Start to follow rules
- Be able to recognize authority
- Manage bathroom needs
- Button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers
- Begin to control oneself
- Separate from parents without being upset
- Speak understandably
- Talk in complete sentences of five to six words
- Look at pictures and then tell stories
- Identify rhyming words
- Identify the beginning sound of some words
- Identify some alphabet letters
- Recognize some common sight words like "stop"
- Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape

Recognize groups of one, two, three, four, and five objects
Count to ten
Bounce a ball

If your child has acquired most of the skills on this checklist and will be at least four years old at the start of the summer before he or she starts kindergarten, he or she is probably ready for kindergarten. What teachers want to see on the first day of school are children who are healthy, mature, capable, and eager to learn.

2. Kindergarten Readiness

(from *What Your Preschooler Needs to Know*, The Core Knowledge Series, edited by E.D. Hirsch, Linda Bevilacqua)

1. Health and Physical Well-being

-Go up and down steps, hop, run, jump, and climb simple equipment without losing balance.

-Play catch with an adult using a beanbag or ball.

-Ride a tricycle.

-Maintain momentum on a swing by pumping legs.

2. Work Habits

- Listen attentively to a book being read aloud to a group of children for at least 10 minutes.

- Listen attentively to a book being read aloud while sitting on an adult's lap for at least 15 to 20 minutes.

- Play with a toy and/or complete an age-appropriate activity during a sustained period of time, at least 15 minutes, with minimal supervision.

- Follow multi-step directions.

3. Social and Emotional Development

- Care for personal needs, such as using the bathroom independently, dressing oneself, using appropriate table manners, etc.

- Recognize and greet familiar people by name.

- Use verbal forms of politeness, such as "please," "thank you," "you're welcome." Etc.

- Follow rules established for specific settings (public places like a bookstore or church, for example).
- Follow the rules of simple games.
- Play cooperatively with other children, taking turns and sharing toys as necessary.

4. Language

- Give and respond to full name.
- Clearly communicate needs, desires, and feelings.
- Speak in sentences that are, for the most part, grammatically correct.
- Carry on a simple conversation with an adult, taking turns, staying on topic, contributing to the conversation by answering and asking questions, etc.
- Sequentially describe a personal experience.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Understand and use words pertaining to position in space, such as “under/over,” “in/on,” “up/down,” etc.
- Understand and use words pertaining to time, such as the names of the days of the week, “morning/afternoon/evening,” “today/tomorrow/yesterday,” etc.

5. Literacy

- Recite familiar nursery rhymes from memory.
- Identify rhyming words in familiar nursery rhymes.
- Give the beginning sound heard in a spoken word.
- Answer questions about what is happening in a book that is being read aloud.
- Retell a familiar story in child’s own words.
- Pretend to read a book, pointing out the words on a page, where to start reading and in what direction, turning the pages correctly, etc.
- Name the letters and give the sounds of the letters in his or her first name.
- Draw and copy simple lines and marks.
- Write first name, even if some mistakes are present.

- Cut straight lines with scissors.
- Dictate thoughts and ideas to an adult.

6. Math

- Identify whether objects are the same or different.
- Complete puzzles with 8 to 15 pieces.
- Rote-count from 1 to 10.
- Count up to 6 objects correctly.
- Compare groups of objects, using words like “more,” “less,” “equal,” and “the same.”
- Compare the size of objects, using words like “large/small,” “long/short” “thick/thin,” etc.
- Categorize objects according to a single characteristic, such as color, shape, or size.
- Continue a pattern of objects.
- Identify some numerals.

7. General Knowledge

- Recognize and name:
 - Parts of the body
 - Colors and shapes
 - Household items
 - Food and clothing
 - Animals and their habitats, such as farm, ocean, jungle, desert.
- Identify and explain the use of the five senses and the associated body parts.
- Identify the body parts of a particular animal, its needs, and its life cycle.
- Identify the parts of a plant, its needs, and its life cycle.
- Talk about some properties of water, light and air.