

Real Talk

IDEAS FOR PARENTING YOUNG CHILDREN

Brought to you in partnership by:



**A. Sophie Rogers School
for Early Learning**

in the Schoenbaum Family Center at OSU



Ohio Statewide
**Family
Engagement
Center**

—at The Ohio State University—

in the Center on Education and Training
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REAL TALK | KINDERGARTEN READINESS & TRANSITION



KINDERGARTEN READINESS & TRANSITION



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OVERVIEW

OUTLINE OF TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- “Ready” for kindergarten?
- Overview of common screening and enrollment processes
- What to do at home to support/prepare for kindergarten transition?





KINDERGARTEN READINESS



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IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN?

Each district determines child age-eligibility

- Some districts deem a child eligible who is 5 on or before September 30th of the school year
- Some deem a child eligible who is 5 on or before August 1st of the school year
- "Redshirting"
- Not age eligible? Parents may request assessment for a child to go early
 - May be a cost to assessment for family



IS MY CHILD “READY” FOR KINDERGARTEN?

It is public schools’ job to be “ready” for your child if they are age-eligible

- There is a range for all development at age five
- Gather resources here and online about appropriate expectations

Families can support children by talking about the transition, visiting new school and new playground, going to new school events

- Have a plan and talk with your child about it as an exciting adventure
- Be cautious about letting your child see any anxiety you may have associated with kindergarten transition

Families can support by becoming familiar with development and practicing skills with children in a fun way prior to kindergarten transition



READINESS

WHAT ABOUT SKILLS AND ABILITIES?

Check the Ohio Department of Education's website for many resources for families on kindergarten transition

- <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Kindergarten/Kindergarten-Readiness-Checklist>

Your school district may also have resources and recommendations for successful kindergarten transition on their website

Many parents are surprised to find that schools emphasize autonomy, self-help and communication as hallmarks of kindergarten readiness rather than “academic” skills



ready for
KINDERGARTEN
OHIO



Ohio | Department
of Education

To prepare for kindergarten, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready to participate in school. This list can serve as a guide as you and your child prepare for the exciting transition to kindergarten!

Can your child separate from primary caregiver without anxiety?

Use self-control?

- Keeping hands to self
- Sharing and taking turns
- Cooperating and playing with other children
- Using classroom supplies appropriately





Cooperate with adults and authority figures?

- Following directions
- Communicating needs effectively

Demonstrate self-help skills?

Using the restroom independently
Putting on and zipping own coat
Tying shoes





Use classroom tools and toys efficiently?

Cutting with scissors
Holding and using a pencil, crayon or marker
Building with blocks or Legos

Express self-awareness in a variety of ways?



Knowing first and last name.
Writing first name.
Naming the letters in first name.
Knowing name of primary caregiver(s)





READINESS

WHAT ABOUT SKILLS AND ABILITIES?



Kindergarten Readiness Checklist


To do well in school, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready for school. This checklist is a guide. However, young children change so fast! If they cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple of weeks later.

Get your child ready for kindergarten. Ask yourself these questions:

Physical Skills

Does your child...

- ✓ enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing;
- ✓ draw and trace basic shapes;
- ✓ cut with scissors;
- ✓ bounce a ball; or ride a tricycle?




TIPS TO DEVELOP PHYSICAL SKILLS

- Materials that will help your child develop the motor skills needed to learn to write include crayons, markers, pencils, glue, scissors, paper and paint, puzzles, legos and blocks.
- Activities that will help your child's coordination include climbing, jumping, skipping, playing ball, using playground equipment and riding a tricycle.

Health and Safety Needs


Has your child...

- ✓ had required shots;
- ✓ had a dental exam;
- ✓ had a vision exam;
- ✓ learned own first and last name;
- ✓ learned first and last name of parent;
- ✓ learned to watch for cars when crossing the street;
- ✓ learned not to talk to strangers;
- ✓ developed a set routine for going to bed;
- ✓ learned to follow rules for safety?





TIPS TO DEVELOP HEALTH AND SAFETY NEEDS

- Help your child learn their full name, address and telephone number.
- Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street.
- Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help.
- Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.



April 2016




Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Personal Needs

Without your help, can your child...

- ✓ use the bathroom;
- ✓ wash hands;
- ✓ brush teeth;
- ✓ use tissue to blow nose;
- ✓ button and zip up shirts and pants;
- ✓ put on and take off coat;
- ✓ tie and/or Velcro shoes?




TIPS TO DEVELOP PERSONAL NEEDS

- Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth-brushing routines.
- Allow your child to dress themselves.
- Practice putting shoes on.
- Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.

Social and Emotional Skills


Does your child...

- ✓ play well with other children;
- ✓ separate from a parent without being upset;
- ✓ share with other children;
- ✓ care about the feelings of others;
- ✓ follow routines;
- ✓ put toys away when asked?



TIPS TO GROW SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS

- Give your child small chores to learn responsibility.
- Help your child learn to follow directions by giving simple steps.
- Encourage your child to share.
- Praise your child when he or she does something well.
- Provide guidance when your child is having difficulty.



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COMMON SCREENING & ENROLLMENT PROCESSES



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PROCESSES

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Varies by district

- Check district website to ensure that you are properly following procedures
- Virtual/online enrollment, documentation are becoming more common

In general:

- Complete some part of registration online
- Make appointment online or at a central office or location
- Provide documentation at appointment (birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization records)
- Some districts may have some additional school choice which require additional research/steps or visitation



PROCESSES

KINDERGARTEN SCREENINGS

Many schools and districts will have some type of screening at enrollment or beginning of year

- Results cannot prevent a child from enrolling if they are age-eligible
- Helps to guide kindergarten classroom placement and kindergarten instruction
- Often includes vision and hearing screenings
- May be unique to school or district or even teacher



PROCESSES

KINDERGARTEN SCREENINGS

- All kindergarten children in Ohio public schools are screened with a standardized tool at beginning of school year
- In Ohio public schools, this is the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)
 - The purpose of the KRA is to provide information to stakeholders at the local, regional and state levels about how well-prepared children are for kindergarten
 - Four areas assessed: Social Foundations, Mathematics, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development and Language and Literacy
 - For more information, visit Ohio Department of Education's [KRA webpage](#)



PROCESSES

HELPFUL HINTS FROM FAMILIES

Consider before and after school care, transportation, and days off!

- Variance among districts on start and end times of school day
 - Kindergarten classes run for about 6 hours at most if full-time kindergarten is offered
 - Some districts are 2 ½ hours daily, some are every other day, some 2 ½ days full days
 - Many child care providers run programs aligned to the local school schedule
- School districts have professional development days, early release days and weather closures
 - Consider winter break and spring break, holidays and professional development days with your family's work and personal schedule
- Transportation time and feasibility
 - Before and after care and transportation may be a critical part of your decision
 - Third grade and under, an adult typically must meet the bus





HOW FAMILIES CAN PREPARE & SUPPORT THEIR CHILD



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AT-HOME SUPPORT

WHAT CAN FAMILIES DO AT HOME TO PREPARE?

Read children's kindergarten books together

Express excitement and anticipation for this new chapter

- Include child in conversations and discussion in age-appropriate way

Tools available from CETE: ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu

- [Our Guide to Choosing a School in Ohio](#)
- [Back to School Planning Tool for Families](#)

Use the following tips to best support social and literacy development before fall



SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS

Social foundations = a critical predictor of school success

- Establish routines
 - Mealtimes, bedtimes and daily school attendance
 - Helps child predict and expect daily routines and feel confident
 - Reading daily (future homework time)
- Encourage autonomy and independence
 - Toileting, lunchboxes, backpacks
 - Manageable coats and clothing, shoes



SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS

Expectation that child can follow directions and routines with several steps

- Appropriate limits and expectations to support following direction
 - Adult sets limit and follows through if limit is not met
- Support children and teach through frustration and conflict negotiation
 - Games with rules, turn taking, waiting



AT-HOME SUPPORT

LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Language & literacy = foundation of other
'academic' success

- Read daily!
- Talk with your child; think about how many times you can 'serve and return'
 - Make an observation or comment, listen to child's response, expand upon child's response and ask for more information
- Examine phonological awareness, vocabulary and print awareness



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Phonological Awareness

- Individual's awareness of the phonological structure, or sound structure, of words
- Reliable predictor of later reading skills
- One of the most important preK skill to practice
 - Read daily!
 - Listening to language, breaking it apart and putting it back together
 - Any language activity you can do with a child while driving with child in the backseat (rhyming games, sounds like games, etc.)



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Phonological Awareness

- Recognizing when words rhyme and generating rhymes
 - Do 'boat' and 'cup' rhyme?
 - What rhymes with 'pear'?
- Segmentation of words in sentences
 - Clap for each syllable you hear in the word 'blueberry'
- Blending syllables
 - I'm going to say parts of a word. Tell me what the word is. 'Cir-cle'
- Deletion of syllables
 - Say the word 'seashell'. Now say it without the 'sea'



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Vocabulary

Expose your child to new and varied words through reading and conversation

- Read daily!
- Shared or dialogic reading has the most impact
 - Explicitly point out words, discuss plot, guess what will happen next
- Explicitly point out new words in books and conversation
- Expand upon your child's conversation and invite them to continue
 - "Look! A dog!"
 - "I see that dog! He's wearing a little sweater. Why do you think his owner put a sweater on him?"
 - Try to improve the number of times you go back and forth
- All of the above should be fun and enjoyable!



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Print Awareness

- Understanding how print works (left to right, capital and lower case letters, how to handle a book)
- Read daily!
 - Incorporate print referencing into shared reading
 - Point out letters, author and illustrators' names, where you are starting to read, "this word is underlined so it's loud!"
- Explicitly point out environmental print
 - Show menus, calendars, signs, explain how you are using them
 - Explain differences in charts, tables of content or indexes in books



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

Print Awareness

- Write your child's name often in fun and authentic ways
 - Cards, name tags, placecards, save signs
- Use writing in daily routines at home
 - Shopping lists, notes, recipes, signs
- All should be fun and enjoyable!



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IDEAS FOR PARENTING YOUNG CHILDREN

For more information and resources, visit:

- A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning
earlychildhood.ehe.osu.edu
- Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center
OhioFamiliesEngage.osu.edu
- Or email S FCCCEC@osu.edu

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THANK YOU

PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY

Go to the link in the chat box
or scan our QR code to take
the survey.





What questions do you have for us?



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Next RealTalk Session

June 23, 2021

12:30-1:00 pm

Loving with Limits: Effective guidance and discipline strategies

