

Is My Five-Year Old Ready for Kindergarten?

Kindergarten should be an exciting and rewarding experience for both children and their parents. While there is no perfect checklist to determine when your child is truly ready for kindergarten, the following list will give you an idea of the necessary skills a child should have mastered in order to receive the greatest benefit from his/her kindergarten experience. **Remember, age is only one factor in determining kindergarten readiness.** Social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development should also be taken into account. **At Patriot Preparatory Academy kindergarteners must be 5 yrs old by August 1st to register for kindergarten.**

Social and Emotional Development

- Use words instead of being physical when angry or frustrated
- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Follow two-step directions
- Ask for help when necessary
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Stay with an activity to completion
- Initiate and sustain appropriate play with other children
- Share with others and understand taking turns
- Comply with rules, limits, and routines
- Recognize authority
- Interact appropriately with adults
- Respect the rights, property and feelings of others
- Demonstrate self-control
- Dress themselves (button shirts, pants, coats and zip up zippers)
- Manage bathroom needs independently
- Separate from parents for extended period of time without being upset
- Attempt new tasks knowing it's okay to make mistakes

Motor Skills

- Hold scissors correctly
- Hold a pencil, crayon or marker properly
- Put together a 10 - 12 piece puzzle
- Run, jump and skip
- Walk backwards
- Draw and color a picture beyond a scribble
- Attempt to tie shoes

Academic

- Look at pictures and then tell stories
- Identify alphabet letters
- Identify beginning sounds of words
- Count to 10
- Correctly count at least 5 objects
- Identify own first name in writing
- Print own first name
- Recognize and identify 8 basic colors
- Understand concepts such as in/out, under/above, on/off, front/back
- Participate in art and music activities
- Know the body parts (head, shoulder, knees, etc.)
- Use words like bigger, smaller or heaviest to show comparison
- Recognizes basic shapes
- Attempt to write words

Language

- Speak in complete sentences of 5 – 6 words
- Use descriptive language
- Recognize rhyming words
- Sing and/or recite nursery rhymes
- Pretend, create, and make-up songs and stories
- Talk about everyday experiences
- Tell or retell stories
- Enjoy having books read to him/her
- Ask questions
- Verbally and appropriately respond to a topic
- Express ideas so others can understand him

Personal Information

- State address
- State phone number
- State birth date