

Kindergarten Readiness Indicators



Help Assure Your Children Are Ready to Go to School.

Arkansas Department
of Education
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Give Your Children

An Early Start on Success

Starting school is a big step. Make sure that step is in the right direction by helping your children acquire the skills necessary to be successful.

The School Readiness Committee has identified 38 indicators that will help get your children's educational experience off to a good start.

Some children will not possess all of the skills included here, but that will not prevent them from entering school.

This is simply a list of skills that will give you, as a parent or guardian, a place to begin in preparing your children for entering kindergarten. Studies have shown being ready to learn means your children will have a head start that will last a lifetime.

When Your Children are Better Prepared, They're More Likely to Succeed

Help Make Sure They're Ready

Children who enter school with a broad range of skills and knowledge tend to be more successful in school. You play a big part in that process. While mastery of any or all of the skills identified here is not required for admission to kindergarten, we hope you will use these indicators to help your children enter kindergarten with confidence.

To find out more about how you can help prepare your children for kindergarten, call Arkansas Statewide Family Literacy at 501-682-4847 or visit us on the web at www.familylit.com where you'll find valuable links to the Arkansas Department of Education, DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Head Start Association and other educational and family resources.

Tips for Parenting

1. Value and have a positive attitude about learning
2. Set aside regular time and space for homework
3. Form a two-way communication between school and home
4. Talk and listen to your children about school
5. Make sure your children are well rested, well fed and healthy
6. Know the grade level requirements and graduation requirements for your children
7. Use the library and other community resources
8. Support family learning through everyday activities
9. Form relationships with your children's school and teachers, and attend school functions
10. Set aside daily family time
11. Support your children's school by notifying the school of your willingness to volunteer
12. Patiently set limits on behavior and discipline
13. Say, **I love you and yes** as much as you say, **don't** and **no**
14. Meet your children's friends and get to know their parents

The Kindergarten Readiness Indicators were developed by the School Readiness Committee, Arkansas Department of Education, DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Head Start Association and many Arkansas Early Childhood Providers.



Arkansas
Family Literacy
Initiative

501-682-4847
www.familylit.com

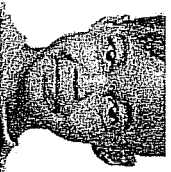
Expressiveness and Language Comprehension Indicators

- Uses effective oral communication skills and speaks in complete sentences
- Understands and follows directions with at least two steps
- Understands vocabulary related to position, direction, size and comparison
 - like/different
 - top/bottom
 - first/last
 - big/little
 - up/down
- Makes simple predictions and comments about a story being read



Approach to Learning and Cognition Indicators

- Demonstrates visual discrimination skills by matching two like pictures in each of five sets of pictures
- Classifies (same/different, alike/not alike) objects by physical features
 - shape
 - color
 - size
- Classifies objects conceptually (things that go together)
- Recognizes, replicates or repeats a visual or auditory patterning sequence
- Demonstrates the ability to correctly put in order or sequence up to three (3) pictures
- Recites/participates/joins in repeating a familiar song/poem/finger play/nursery rhyme



- Retells a simple story after listening to a story with pictures
- Works simple puzzles (up to four [4] pieces)
- Identifies/points to five (5) colors

Phonological Awareness and Print Knowledge Indicators

- Recognizes name in print when shown word cards
- Points to and/or recognizes letters in name
- Attempts to write letters in own name
- Recognizes environmental print or familiar signs in the child's environment
- Demonstrates book awareness
 - Concepts about print
 - left to right
 - top to bottom
 - Book Handling
 - holding book right side up
 - beginning/ending

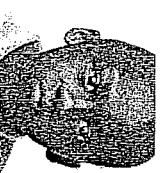


- Identifies two words that rhyme/sound the same
- Recognizes 10 alphabet letter names, may include those in own name by pointing to requested letter
- Makes three (3) letter/sound matches
- Uses symbols or drawings to express ideas

Mathematics Indicators

- Counts number of objects in small group (up to five [5] groups)
- Demonstrates an understanding of number (how many) and numeral relationship by placing correct number of objects to corresponding 0-5 numeral

- Demonstrates an understanding of addition and subtraction using manipulatives up to five (5)
- Arranges numerals in order 1-5
- Identifies/points to three (3) shapes



- Counts in sequence 1-10
- Understands concepts of more and less up to five (5) objects

Social Emotional

- Identifies self as a boy or girl
- Provides/states first and last name
- Identifies parent's first and last name
- Identifies age
- Demonstrates independence in personal care
- Separates from parents by appearing comfortable and secure without a parent

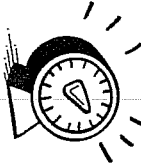


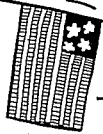
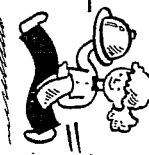

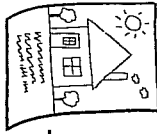


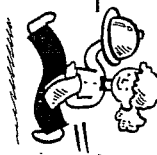
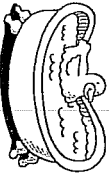
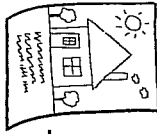


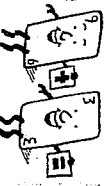
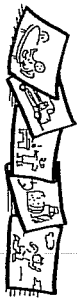

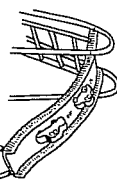
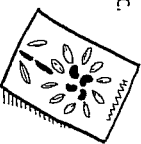



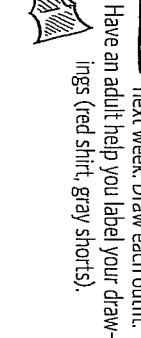


Physical Development Indicators

- Uses writing or drawing tools and scissors with control and intention
- Reproduces or copies a
 - (minus symbol)
 - O (circle)
 - X (x mark)
 - + (plus symbol)
- Demonstrates gross motor skills (hop, jump, run, catch and bounce ball)



DAY-BY-DAY LEARNING




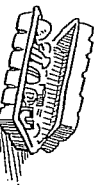



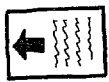
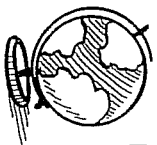



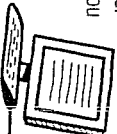


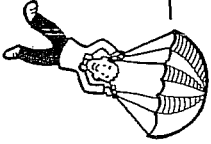
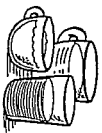





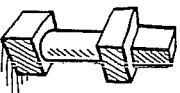
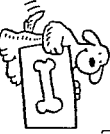
Note to Parents:
Hang this calendar on the refrigerator, and encourage your child to do each day's fun activity.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Use a timer to see how long it takes you to get dressed this morning.</p> <p>Can you beat your time tomorrow?</p> 	<p>Decorate a box for your library.</p> <p>Draw pictures of books or your favorite characters. Keep it by your bed or in the living room.</p> 	<p>Create a pattern with items from nature. You might repeat objects or colors. Example: pinecone, acorn; pinecone, acorn.</p> 	<p>Make an American flag by gluing six white strips of paper on a piece of red construction paper. Glue a blue rectangle in the corner. Dip a finger in white paint and make 50 fingerprints for stars.</p> 	<p>Choose five stickers. Put them at the top of a piece of paper, and write or dictate a story about them.</p> 
<p>Practice counting backward. First, count to 10, and count backward to zero. Then, count to 20 and backward.</p> <p>- N N F N</p> 	<p>Describe your favorite family celebration. Then, draw a picture of it.</p> 	<p>Carry a box of crayons in the car. Look out the window, and find one object for each color (green grass, yellow flower, blue sky).</p> 	<p>Look through a favorite book. Each time you see the words "the" and "and," make a tally mark on a piece of paper. Which word appeared most often?</p> 	<p>Pretend to be a waiter and serve snacks or drinks to family members. Have them "pay" using spare change or play money.</p> 
<p>Add toy people and animals to your bath. Which ones float, and which ones sink? Note.</p> <p>Supervise your child near water.</p> 	<p>Draw a picture of your house, and ask an adult to help you write your address on it. Work on memorizing your address.</p> 	<p>How many ways can you think of to move your body? Make a list of these action words (gallop, dance), which are called "verbs." Then, do each one.</p> 	<p>Ask each person in your family to choose something to read. Take a blanket or lawn chairs and find a nice place outdoors where you can read together.</p> 	<p>Practice addition with playing cards. Remove the face cards and jokers, and select two cards. Add them together. Continue until all the cards are gone.</p> 
<p>Draw five pictures of things you do every day (eat breakfast, go to school). Mix the pictures up, and arrange them in the correct order.</p> 	<p>Carefully cut words you can read from food packages, store coupons, and advertisements. Hang them on the refrigerator, and practice reading.</p> 	<p>Take toy cars to the playground. Race them down the slides. Which cars go faster? Which ones make it to the bottom without flipping over?</p> 	<p>Make a mosaic. Tear a page from a coloring book, and spread glue on it. Cover each section with different beans or seeds (black beans, sunflower seeds).</p> 	<p>Listen to an audio book. Follow along in the print version with your finger. Use the pictures and any words you know to help you read the story as you listen.</p> 
<p>While riding in the car, find the numbers 1-10. You can look at house numbers, speed limit signs, or numbers on the side of a truck.</p> 	<p>Some animals can see well in the dark. How about you? Stand in a brightly lit room and then turn out the lights. Count how long it takes your eyes to adjust to the darkness.</p> 	<p>Plan what you will wear every day for the next week. Draw each outfit. Have an adult help you label your drawings (red shirt, gray shorts).</p> 	<p>Practice a fire drill. First, choose a meeting place outside. Then, when you blow a whistle, everyone should go outside quickly, without stopping to take a toy or put on a jacket.</p> 	<p>Divide a paper plate into four sections. Put two of each of your favorite snacks (crackers, carrots) in each section. How many snacks are there altogether?</p> 

Early Years

DAY-BY-DAY LEARNING

Note to Parents:
Hang this calendar on the refrigerator, and encourage your child to do each day's fun activity.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Practice writing numbers in order by numbering the boxes on this calendar 1-25.</p> 	<p>Act out a nursery rhyme, such as "Little Bo Peep," with a friend. Look around the house for props and costumes.</p> 	<p>Go outside and play shadow tag. One person is "it," and tags players by stepping on their shadows.</p> 	<p>Put 12 small objects in an empty, clean egg carton. Look at them for one minute. Close the carton, and try to remember what's in each section.</p> 	<p>Use magnetic letters to make the word "fun." Try changing the first letter. How many words can you spell?</p> 
<p>Help a parent fold laundry. Sort it into piles according to color. Which color did your family wear the most?</p> 	<p>Choose a book you can read. Ask a parent or an older brother or sister to take turns reading it aloud with you.</p> 	<p>Use old magazines to cut out pictures of things you can hear, taste, smell, see, and touch. Glue them on a piece of construction paper for a collage of your five senses.</p> 	<p>Look at a map or globe. Find one place that begins with each letter.</p> 	<p>Make up a story. Draw a picture of the beginning, middle, and end.</p>
<p>Design placecards for dinner. Fold index cards in half so they stand up. Write each person's name on a card, and draw a picture for each one.</p> 	<p>Lay paper clips end to end next to your shoe. Then, use paper clips to measure an adult's shoe. How many more paper clips did you need?</p> 	<p>Encourage your family to recycle by making a poster to hang above your trash can. Draw pictures of things that can be recycled like newspapers or plastic bottles.</p> 	<p>Ask a parent to help you e-mail a relative. Dictate what you want to say. Type your name at the bottom.</p> 	<p>Make a list of your favorite story characters. Each time you read a book with characters you like, add them to your list.</p> 
<p>Put a handful of dry cereal in a bowl. Guess how many pieces there are. Count to check.</p> 	<p>Today is opposite day! Say the opposite of what you mean. Example: Say, "I'm walking up the stairs," as you walk down.</p> 	<p>Using a measuring cup, pour 1/2 cup water in one glass, 1/3 cup in a second glass, and 1/4 cup in a third glass. Which one has the most water?</p> 	<p>Survey family members to find out their favorite holidays. Use symbols to record their answers (a flag for Independence Day, a turkey for Thanksgiving).</p> 	<p>On a computer, type the alphabet. Make each letter a different color, font, or size. Point to each letter as you sing the alphabet song.</p> 
<p>Use toothpicks to make different shapes. How would you make a triangle, square, or rectangle?</p> 	<p>Paint to music. Use watercolors or finger paints, and move your brush or hands to the song.</p> 	<p>Go outside with an adult to watch animals, birds, and bugs. Take turns choosing one to imitate.</p> 	<p>Build blocks with a parent. Sit back-to-back and try to build identical towers by describing which blocks you're putting where.</p> 	<p>Write down or draw pictures of everything you eat today. Rate each food from one to three stars — the healthiest choices get three stars!</p> 

EARLY YEARS