

KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST

As your child quickly approaches school age, you may be wondering if he or she has developed the skills necessary to be successful in this new and challenging part of their childhood. In order to help your child with the transition, United Way of Lancaster County's Success by 6 has provided you with the following list of behaviors that school districts and preschool programs across the state consistently look for to understand a child's readiness for the school experience.

Please keep in mind: any child who meets the locally determined kindergarten age requirement is eligible to attend kindergarten. This resource should never be used to exclude an age-eligible child from kindergarten.

CHILD'S NAME: _____

I can do this consistently	I am making progress	CRITERIA
LETTERS & WORDS:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognizes and names at least ten letters of the alphabet
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matches a letter with the beginning sound of a word, for example: matches the letter "B" with a picture of a banana
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognizes rhyming words such as "cat" and "hat"
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognizes letters in his or her own first name
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Begins to write some of the letters in his or her own first name
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognizes his or her own first name in print
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Understands words such as "top," "bottom," "big," and "little"
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognizes words or signs he or she sees often, for example: McDonalds, Wal-Mart, or stop signs and exit signs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Begins to draw pictures to express ideas and tell stories
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognizes and names at least five colors
SPEAKING:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shares and talks about his/her own experiences in a way that can be understood by most listeners
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Follows directions with at least two steps, for example: "Pick up the blocks and put them on the shelf, please."
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiates and joins in conversations with adults and children
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asks questions about how things work in the world around him, for example: "Why do babies cry?"
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Says and/or sings familiar nursery rhymes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Answers simple questions: Who?, What?, When?, Where?
BOOKS:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holds and looks at books correctly, for example: holds the book right side up and turns the pages one at a time from front to back
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tells a story from the picture on the cover or in the book
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retells a simple story such as the <i>Three Little Pigs</i> after listening to it while looking at the pictures in the book
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Makes simple predictions and comments about a story being read
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shows growing interest in reading and being read to
NUMBERS & SHAPES:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Counts out loud from one to ten in correct order
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Identifies written numbers from one to ten
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Puts written numerals in order from one to ten: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Counts at least five objects such as five bananas and five cookies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sees the numeral '3' and understands this means three objects, such as three cookies
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adds and subtracts familiar objects such as raisins
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognizes and names four shapes: circle, square, rectangle, and triangle

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses familiar objects, such as raisins, to show concepts of more and less
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Draws a line, circle, rectangle, triangle, X, and +
SAME, DIFFERENT, & PATTERNS:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matches two pictures that are alike
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Looks at groups of objects and says which are the same shape, color, or size
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tells things that go together, for example: a spoon and fork are for eating and a fish and a boat go in the water
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeats a pattern you start, for example: step, step, jump - step, step, jump
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Puts three pictures in order, for example: 1. Planting flower seeds 2. Flowers growing 3. Picking flowers
GROWING UP:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tells full name, address, and telephone number
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tells if he or she is a boy or a girl
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tells how old he or she is
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Takes care of own needs such as toileting, washing hands, dressing, and trying to tie his or her own shoes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adjusts to new situations without parents being there
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Runs, jumps, hops, throws, catches, and bounces a ball
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rides a tricycle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses pencils, crayons, and markers for drawing and writing, cuts safely with scissors
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attempts and completes tasks, understands it's okay to make mistakes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remembers to say "please" and "thank you"
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolves conflicts with playmates and others appropriately
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Responds appropriately to his feelings and the feelings of others
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses words to express feelings: "I'm angry," "I'm sad"
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Takes turns, shares, and plays with other children
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiates positive interaction with peers
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Puts puzzles together
HEALTH & SAFETY:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Follows a set routine and schedule for preparing for bed, personal hygiene, and eating meals
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses good habits, for example: uses a spoon to eat, closed mouth when chewing, covers nose and mouth to sneeze, and washes hands after using the toilet and before eating
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is aware of and follows simple safety rules
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visits the doctor and dentist regularly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognizes potentially dangerous or harmful objects, substances, situations, and activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asks for adult help when needed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participates in vigorous physical activity daily

Remember that play is an important part of learning. Your child learns best when he or she is spending time with you and doing activities which are interesting and fun!

SUCCESS BY 6



For additional information, assistance,
or if you don't know where to turn,
please dial 2-1-1.

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This Kindergarten Readiness Checklist is excerpted and adapted from the "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" calendar produced by Success By 6, the Early Childhood Initiative of the United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and the school readiness calendar produced by the Arkansas Dept. of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Our special thanks for their willingness to share their work with us.

**United Way
of Lancaster County**