

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Academic, social, emotional, and practical life skills, all in one page — brought to you by childdaycaretracy.com

Academic Readiness

- Recognizes most letters of the alphabet
- Understands that letters correspond to sounds
- Counts to ten or higher, recognizes some numbers by sight
- Identifies basic shapes and colors
- Holds a pencil or crayon with reasonable control
- Shows interest in books and being read to

Still building these skills?

A structured preschool program builds directly toward these exact readiness markers. [See our preschool program →](#)

Social & Emotional Readiness

- Can separate from a parent for several hours without prolonged distress
- Takes turns and shares, even if reluctantly
- Follows simple group instructions (lining up, sitting for story time)
- Manages frustration without a complete meltdown
- Communicates a need or problem to an unfamiliar adult

Physical & Practical Readiness

- Can manage a full day of activity, with or without a nap
- Has fine motor control for buttons, zippers, using the bathroom
- Handles transitions between activities reasonably well
- Has enough stamina to focus during structured activities

A note on this checklist: readiness is a pattern across categories, not a perfect score. Most children show strength in some areas and room to grow in others — that's exactly what kindergarten teachers expect to see on day one.

Not sure where your child stands?

Tell us your child's age and what you're seeing at home. We'll give you an honest read on readiness and how our program can help close any gaps before kindergarten.

[💬 Contact Us for a Readiness Chat →](#)