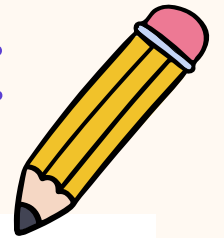


A Real Kindergarten Readiness Checklist



Following Directions & Safety

- Follows a direction with two steps (“put your cup in the sink, then grab your shoes”)
- Stops and looks at an adult when they hear an attention or “freeze” signal
- Stays with the group when walking somewhere — hallway, parking lot, store
- Knows their full name and a grown-up's name or phone number
- Understands not to wander off from a trusted adult, even in a fun or exciting place

Independent Self-Care

- Uses the bathroom and washes hands without help
- Opens their own lunch containers, snack bags, or water bottle
- Puts on a coat, shoes, and backpack with minimal assistance
- Cleans up toys or materials when asked

Peer Interaction & Personal Space

- Understands the idea of a “bubble” of personal space around others
- Takes turns and shares with some support
- Plays cooperatively alongside another child for a few minutes
- Keeps hands and feet to self, even when frustrated

Communication

- Uses words or short sentences to express needs
- Asks an adult for help instead of waiting to be rescued
- Listens to a short story and can talk about what happened
- Answers simple questions in complete-ish sentences

Approach to Learning

- Shows curiosity about new things
- Is willing to try a task even when it's a little hard
- Can sit and attend to a non-preferred activity for a couple of minutes



Social-Emotional

- Separates from a parent or caregiver without extended distress
- Can name a big feeling (“I'm mad,” “I'm sad”) even if they can't fully calm down yet
- Tolerates hearing “not yet” or “no” without a prolonged meltdown



Fine Motor & Pre-Writing

- Holds and uses scissors, crayons, and glue
- Recognizes and attempts to write their own name



This isn't a pass-or-fail list. Most kids are still working on several of these when they start, and that's exactly what kindergarten is designed for. Use it as a guide for where to spend your time this summer — not a scorecard.

