

## **Skills Kids Should Have Before They Start Kindergarten**

Please take some time to practice these skills with your child. Don't try to cram in all the lessons at once. These are skills that are best taught in small doses with repetition over time.

### **Reading Readiness**

Remember pictures from a printed page

Repeats a 6 to 8 word sentence

Pretends to read

Identifies own first name in writing

Prints some alphabet letters

Prints own first name (only first letter in upper case)

Answers questions about a short story

Looks at pictures and can tell a story

Understands that one reads from left to right

Knows the names of letters of the alphabet

Knows the meaning of simple words

Understands night and day

Knows age and birthday

### **Listening and Sequencing**

Follows simple directions

Pays attention

Recognizes common sounds

Retells a simple story in sequence

Repeats a sequence of sounds

A sequence of at least 4 orally given numbers

## Size, Position, and Direction

Understands: big/little, long/short, up/down, in/out, front/back, over/under, hot/cold, empty/full, more/less, fast/slow, top/bottom

Recognizes primary colors

Recognizes basic shapes

## Motor Skills

Is able to: run, walk a straight line, jump, hop, alternate feet walking down stairs, march, stand on one foot, walk backwards, throw a ball, glue pictures on paper, clap hands, button clothes, build with blocks, complete simple puzzles, draw and color beyond scribbling, zip clothes, control pencil and crayon, handle scissors, cut and draw simple shapes

Knows: body parts, own first and last name, parents' names, home address, phone number, when to use a tissue

## Social-Emotional Development

Expresses self verbally

Identifies other children by name

Can be away from parents for a long period of time

Looks forward to going to school

Can take care of toilet needs independently

Cares for own belongings

Dresses self

Brushes own teeth

Joins in family conversations

Carries a plate of food

Maintains self-control

Gets along with other children

Recognizes authority

Shares with other children

Talks easily

Puts away toys

Helps with chores

Work independently