

## Social and Emotional Development

- Can follow simple rules and routines.
- Can express his or her needs and wants using words.
- Can play nicely with other children. Waits patiently for a turn or a chance to talk.
- Can express using words how he or she is feeling.
- Uses helpful words to express frustration and anger (e.g., "I don't like it when you get in front of me on the slide while I'm waiting my turn. Please wait your turn.")

### Try This .....

- Provide many opportunities for your child to play with others. Notice how he or she gets along.
- Play games that require taking turns and following directions.
- Encourage your child to talk about feelings. Share books that explore emotions.

## Cognitive Development/General Knowledge

- Can count toys in a pile while pointing to each object as they count and assign the appropriate number to each object.
- Can recognize 2 and 3 dimensional shapes (circle, triangle, rectangle, square, sphere, etc.).
- Can sort and compare objects.
- Can use comparative terminology to compare two or more objects (e.g., "This bucket is heavier than that one", "This ball is bigger than these other two balls", "A rock is heavier than a feather.")

### Try This .....

- Allow your child to set the table ("How many forks do we need?" "How many chairs?").
- Hide natural objects in a sandbox or sand table and have children find, sort, and compare them by specified categories (e.g., smooth/rough, hard/soft, light/dark).
- Provide a "feely box" with a variety of differently shaped objects and have the children choose one and identify the shape and the number of sides.



## What are some free quality websites or apps I can utilize to help my child prepare for kindergarten?

- <http://hillsborough.myon.com>
    - \* Online books for children ages birth to eighth grade.
  - Daily Vroom (Smartphone App)
    - \* Consists of over 1,000 brain-building activities that turn fun, everyday moments into brain building moments.
  - <http://www.starfall.com/>
    - \* Your child will have fun learning essential reading and math skills through exploration!
  - <http://pbskids.org/sesame/>
    - \* Interactive Sesame Street games, charming videos, fun activities, and helpful tips aimed to encourage children and the adults in their lives to read and write together, starting from an early age.
- \* All sites listed will have greater benefits to children if adult assistance is provided.



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# Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?



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In the state of Florida, any child who is five by September 1 of that school year is eligible to attend kindergarten. There are no tests for admission and children arrive in Kindergarten in all states of readiness. Some are readers and some have had very little exposure to books. Some can write short sentences and others are awkward with a pencil or crayon. Ideally, all children would start school with the academic and social tools needed for a successful year. But what would those tools be?

This brochure is designed to provide parents and care-givers an idea of what types of experiences might give their child a solid foundation for Kindergarten.



Ready Freddy is here to help us remember the importance of kindergarten readiness! Your child will be seeing Freddy throughout the community, in PreK and kindergarten classrooms, and at school events! Ready Freddy is a tool for encouraging all families to prioritize activities that promote their child's readiness for kindergarten!

### ***Is Prekindergarten/Preschool Important?***

An important goal of preschool is building the skills necessary for future academic success. But, a quality preschool experience should also help children learn skills such as patience, how to raise their hands, and how to take turns. They should learn about procedures, routines, and following directions. Going to preschool helps children learn to separate from their parent or caregiver.

Children who have developed language skills, listening comprehension, emotional control and a positive attitude toward learning will make a smooth transition into kindergarten.

### ***What can I teach my child NOW to help him/her be successful in kindergarten?***

Examples of knowledge and skills listed in the Florida Standards for 4-Year-Olds are below. These are examples of childhood development and are NOT intended as a checklist of required skills.

#### ***Physical Development***

- Can run, jump, climb, and throw/kick a ball, and does other activities that help develop large muscles and provide exercise.
- Uses pencils, crayons, scissors, and paint, and does other activities that help develop small muscles.
- Uses language, rather than hitting or kicking, to communicate frustration.
- Is able to take turns and share toys.
- Can dress self, use bathroom independently, wash hands, brush teeth daily, etc.

#### ***Try This .....***

- Play games that require running, jumping, throwing/kicking a ball.
- Give many chances for your child to draw using markers, crayons, pencils, and paint.
- Provide activities that require your child to cut with scissors.
- Provide opportunities for your child to interact with other children.



#### ***Language, Communication, and Emergent Literacy***

- Can participate in a sustained conversation with a friend or adult.
- Enjoys being read to/listening to stories and is able to answer questions about a story.
- Can hear separate sounds within short words.
- Able to recognize uppercase and lowercase letters and produce letter sounds.
- Writes and recognizes their name.



#### ***Try This .....***

- Read aloud to your child daily. Ask questions about the story or have the child guess what might happen.
- As you are driving in a car, ask your child to identify letters, signs, store names they may see.
- Ask your child to say the sound of a letter within a word written in a poem, song, sign, book, or other printed text.
- Provide a variety of familiar objects for children to sort into first-sound piles.

#### ***Approaches to Learning***

- Is curious and asks questions. Likes to make things.
- Enjoys reading many types of books.
- Keeps working on an activity that they find difficult.
- Likes to pretend play.
- Works with peers, adults, and materials to solve problems.
- Chooses many ways to explore a special interest (e.g., looking for books about dinosaurs, playing with toy dinosaurs, and drawing pictures about dinosaurs).

#### ***Try This .....***

- Visit the library and allow your child to check out books to read with you at home.
- Provide a variety of open-ended materials (e.g., blank paper, modeling clay, ribbons) and allow children to create things.
- Encourage children to solve problems step-by-step, asking questions in a series (e.g., "What would you do first?" "Then what?").
- Create opportunities for children to role play characters and try on roles of community workers.