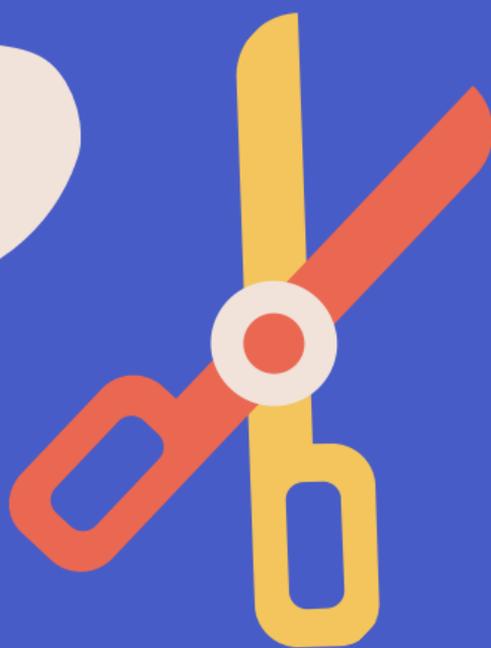
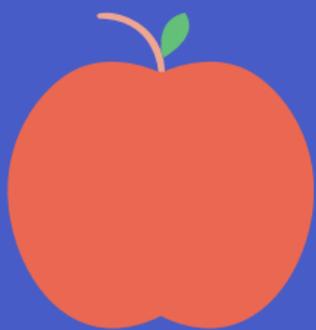


A Parent's Guide

Is my child ready for Kindergarten?



WEST MICHIGAN
**Academy
of Arts &
Academics**

Is my child ready for Kindergarten?

A child that is ready for Kindergarten demonstrates many of these skills...



How a child Approaches Learning forms lifelong skills.

- Shows an eagerness to learn; asks many questions.
- Is interested in new things; likes to explore; has a curious mind.
- Uses imagination during play and when telling stories.
- Completes tasks and projects after stating them; does not get easily frustrated when encountering a problem.
- Works toward solving problems on his or her own.
- Chooses toys to play with and projects on his or her own.
- Carries out a set of three instructions without an adult guiding him or her.
- Creates art projects using their own ideas and imagination.
- Follows simple rules.

Language & Early Literacy builds the foundation of Kindergarten readiness.



- Enjoys listening to stories read to him or her.
- Retells information in sequence from books read to him or her.
- Holds a book correctly; beginning to use reading-like behaviors with books and other printed materials.
- Is beginning to understand reading and writing concepts, such as "top-down" and "left-to-right".
- Knows the difference between print and picture.
- Draws a picture and is able to tell about it.
- Uses at least two or more simple sentences in a row.
- Knows the letters of his or her first name as well as the beginning letters of familiar words. A child knowing at least 10 letters of the alphabet shows a beginning readiness for Kindergarten.
- Understands that letters are combined to create words; can identify familiar words in written form (words such as his or her own name, "mom", "dad", words in common signs, etc.).
- Recognizes and says simple rhymes (hat/cat, tree/bee, etc).
- Connects letters with sounds.
- "Writes" his or her name or other meaningful words (neat penmanship does not matter!).



Early Math Skills are a key predictor of school success.

- Counts to at least 10.
- Counts objects and states how many.
- Counts two small groups of objects and states which one has more.
- Identifies basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, etc.).
- Sorts objects by color, shape, size.
- Knows common colors (red, green, blue, yellow, orange, black, white).
- Uses comparison words to describe objects (smaller, larger, more, less, same, different, etc).

Science & Technology impact the world around your child.



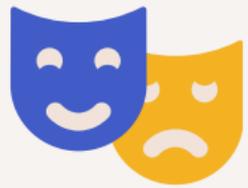
- Explores materials and activities using the five senses; hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch.
- Holds a basic understanding of the natural world (rain is wet, sun is hot, snow is cold, etc).
- Knows the difference between living and non-living things.
- Observes the outside world and can explain simple natural concepts (leaves change color in the fall, water and sun make plants grow in the summer, snow melts and turns to water, etc).
- Describes objects using concepts such as hot/cold, hard/soft, up/down, wet/dry, etc.
- Is able to use basic functions of a computer on his or her own.



A Healthy child develops into a child ready to learn & succeed.

- Takes care of basic personal needs on own (dresses, washes hands, uses toilet, cleans up after self, etc.).
- Uses fingers and hands for fine motor tasks—as seen when using blocks, beads, crayons, etc.).
- Holds a pencil correctly.
- Hops, jumps, gallops, kicks, catches, rides a tricycle, and throws a ball.

Social & Emotional development is key to forming strong relationships and a positive sense of self.



- Expresses his or her own wants and needs; does not rely on an adult to express desires.
- Forms relationships with adults and family members close to him or her.
- Talks about emotions (happy, sad, excited, frustrated, worried, etc).
- Plays well with other children, makes friends on own.
- Takes turns and shares without being told to do so.
- Recognizes and responds to the feelings of others.
- Calmly ends one activity and moves to another activity without major disruptions, emotional outbursts, etc.

A Parent's Commitment

- 1 I will have a warm, loving, and nurturing relationship with my child.
- 2 I will regularly encourage and recognize my child for doing the right thing.
- 3 I will read to my child at least 20 minutes per day. There will be books in my house which my child enjoys and uses often.
- 4 I will prepare healthy meals and snacks every day complete with fruits and vegetables.
- 5 I will take my child to the doctor and dentist as scheduled.
- 6 I will speak with my doctor if I have concerns about the pace of my child's development.
- 7 I will limit the amount of my young child's "screen time" (television, computers, etc.) to no more than one hour per day.
- 8 I will create a healthy sleep schedule for my child (young children need at least 10 hours of sleep every night).
- 9 I will have my child run, play, and exercise at least 60 minutes per day.
- 10 I will laugh with and enjoy my child EVERY day!

