

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL READINESS

In recent years, the issue of school readiness has been somewhat controversial. This has caused misinformation and confusion for parents, educators, administrators, and others making decisions about children's ability to be successful in a school setting. Many people feel there should be a set of capabilities that all children should have before entering kindergarten. However, others feel that all children are ready and it is the role of the school and teacher to provide appropriate activities to meet each child's individual needs.

In the past, discussions about school readiness generally were focused on whether a child was ready to read or perform other cognitive skills. Today, the common view is that readiness



reflects a range of skills and abilities, including, health and physical development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language and communication skills, and cognitive and general knowledge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Funding for this brochure
provided in part by:



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources



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KINDERGARTEN? IS MY CHILD READY? AM I?



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DETERMINING SCHOOL READINESS

While there is no one tool or measure to determine whether your child is ready for kindergarten, there are a variety of skills you can use as guidelines. Keep in mind that all



children are different and develop skills and abilities at different rates. A skill your child may not have yet, could soon master. If you have concerns about the rate at which your child is developing, seek assistance from a qualified professional.



INTELLECTUAL SKILLS

Can your child:

- ★ sit and listen to a story read aloud
- ★ tell and retell stories he is familiar with
- ★ sing some simple songs and say some simple rhymes



- ★ tell his first and last name and own age
- ★ recognize the alphabet
- ★ identify basic shapes and colors
- ★ count objects
- ★ speak in sentences that are understandable



SOCIAL SKILLS

Is your child able to:

- ★ follow simple rules and routines
- ★ share and cooperate with other children
- ★ play with other children in socially acceptable ways
- ★ follow the directions given by an adult
- ★ put away toys or clean up when asked
- ★ be separate from you for periods of time without being upset



PHYSICAL SKILLS

Has your child learned to:

- ★ run, jump, skip, climb, swing, and throw a ball
- ★ draw, color, and cut with scissors
- ★ build with blocks
- ★ use silverware



SELF CARE SKILLS

Without your help, can your child:

- ★ use the toilet
- ★ wash her hands
- ★ put on and take off coat or sweater
- ★ put on shoes
- ★ snap, button, and zip items
- ★ eat snacks or meals unassisted



HEALTH READINESS

Has your child:

- ★ had all required immunizations
- ★ received regular medical and dental check ups
- ★ eaten balanced meals at regular times
- ★ observed reasonable bedtimes



REMEMBER

These are only guidelines. Children mature and develop at different rates.