

## Dublin Unified School District Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

This checklist is designed to help you look at your child's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development and contains items that are important to your child's success in kindergarten. It also includes tips to help guide you as you work and play with your child. ***It is designed for four and five year olds.***

### Concept Development - Does your child...

- Recognize and/or name colors?
- Match or sort items by color and shape?
- Understand concepts such as: in, out, under, on, off, front and back?
- Know her/his body parts (head, shoulders, knees, etc.)?

***Here are some tips for helping young children construct their own understanding of concepts as they interact and work with materials, people, events and ideas:***

- Provide age appropriate toys which require thinking, including puzzles, blocks or sorting toys.
- Count objects around the house, such as plates and forks for the table, crackers for snacks.
- Play games with your child using words such as: "Put the ball on the chair" and "Get the pot from under the sink."

### Physical Development –Does your child...

- Cut with scissors? Try to tie her/his shoes?
- Enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping and climbing?
- Hold a crayon or marker?
- Ride a tricycle?

***Children need physical skills to be successful in school. Daily opportunities to use large and small muscles should be provided. Here are some tips to help children in their physical development:***

- Provide opportunities to use crayons, markers, pencils, and pens.
- Allow your child time to dress her/himself.
- Provide experiences with scissors such as cutting pictures from a magazine.
- Provide opportunities for your child to experiment with balls, tricycles and jump ropes.

### Number Concept Development – Does your child...

- Arrange items in groups according to size, shape or color?
- Group items that are the same?
- Arrange toys or objects in size order, big to small or small to big?
- Correctly identify four to ten objects?

***The development of number concepts - classifying, ordering, counting, and time and space relationships - is directly related to children's ability to perform mathematical tasks throughout their school years and the rest of their lives. It is important to help young children feel confident in dealing with number tasks.***

- Let your child set the table ("How many forks do we need?" "How many chairs?")
- Provide opportunities to put away groceries
- Provide opportunities to compare objects

### Language—Does your child...

- Talk in sentences?
- Follow through when you give her/him one or two directions?
- Use descriptive language? ("That's a tall building with round windows.")
- Pretend, create and make up songs and stories?

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***The development of language abilities-listening, speaking, reading, writing- is critical to children's success throughout their school years and the rest of their lives. It is tied to everything children learn or do in school. Parents can support the development of language abilities by talking with and listening carefully to children as they share their ideas and experiences. Here are some tips for parents:***

- Talk with your child about what interests her/him.
- Use questions which have more than one answer: "What do you think?" "How would you feel?"
- Play rhyming games.
- Let your child know what she/he says is important. You do this by listening to your child.

### **Reading—Does your child...**

- Look at books or pictures on her/his own or pretend to read books by reading the pictures?
- Try to read in every day situations (i.e., street signs, cereal boxes, magazines, etc.)
- Try to talk about or retell the stories or verses heard in school?
- Try to read along with you on favorite parts of a story or sentences that are repeated over and over again?
- See you reading?

***Reading a book to children is an enjoyable and interesting experience. It should be part of the daily family routine. It is the most important way parents can help children learn to read. Here are some tips for parents:***

- Provide a wide variety of books for your child, including nursery rhymes and fairy tales.
- Make reading part of your daily routine.
- Allow your child to select the story that she/he would like to hear.

### **Writing—Does your child...**

- Try to write, scribble or draw?
- Have a collection of paper, pencils, crayons? Use chalk or magnetic letters?
- Attempt to write letters and/or numbers? Attempt to write her/his name?
- See you writing (i.e., notes, recipes, lists, letters, reminders)?

***To become skilled, lifelong writers, children need encouragement and support as they begin the writing process. They'll play at writing as the play at reading. Ask them to read what they've written. Children go through various stages of writing development. These stages include scribbling, drawing pictures and pretend writing. Here are tips for parents:***

- Provide your child with materials (e.g., crayons, pencils, paper) and a space for writing.
- Encourage your child to read her/his writing to you.
- Provide magnetic letters for your child to practice forming words he/she wants to know.

### **Social Emotional—Does your child...**

- Use words to solve problems when angry or frustrated?
- Use words such as *please*, *thank you* and *excuse me*?
- Attempt new tasks knowing it's OK to make mistakes?

***Children must be socially ready for school. Parents can help their children get ready for school by giving them the opportunity to be part of a group of children, whether in a playground or preschool classroom. Children need to know how to take turns, make compromises, approach familiar children, obey those in authority, and generally be kind to others. Tips for parents:***

- Let your child know exactly what is expected.
- Treat your child and others with respect and being a good example.
- Be positive through the use of praise and encouragement. Accept your child's honest efforts without criticism.