KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST · AROUND AGE 5

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Not a test. Check what your child does most of the time, then pick one or two things to practice this month.

🤝 Getting along

- [ ] Takes turns or follows rules in a game with other kids
- [ ] Plays pretend
- [ ] Comforts someone who is hurt or sad

💛 Feelings and focus

- [ ] Pays attention 5–10 minutes in story time or crafts (not screens)
- [ ] Can wait a short time
- [ ] Starts to use words for feelings

💬 Talking and listening

- [ ] Keeps a conversation going for 3+ back-and-forths
- [ ] Tells a story with at least two events
- [ ] Answers simple questions about a book
- [ ] Uses or recognizes simple rhymes (bat–cat)

🖐️ Early letters and numbers

- [ ] Counts to 10
- [ ] Names some numbers 1–5 when you point
- [ ] Names some letters; writes some letters of their name
- [ ] Uses time words: yesterday, tomorrow

🦾 Body and self-care

- [ ] Hops on one foot
- [ ] Buttons some buttons
- [ ] Does simple chores, like clearing the table
- [ ] Uses the bathroom and washes hands mostly alone

For grown-ups: most items are CDC milestones for ages 4–5 — things most children (75% or more) can do. A missing item isn't a diagnosis, but the CDC advises raising it with your pediatrician early, especially if your child has lost skills.

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