



DEFINING EXCELLENCE

Transitioning to Kindergarten in Edina Public Schools

"Is my child ready for kindergarten?" Does "ready" mean being able to count to ten, say the alphabet, sit for storytime, or identify colors?"

Perhaps! These things could mean that your child is "ready" for kindergarten, but the real question is: Is your child excited, curious and eager to keep learning in a kindergarten classroom?

To help you prepare your child to make the transition into kindergarten, we've provided some information and resources that could be helpful.



Parents are a child's first teacher and every child develops at a different pace. In Minnesota, all children who are five years of age on or before September 1st are encouraged to attend kindergarten.



Transitioning to Kindergarten with your family's daily routine

PERSONAL AND SELF HELP

Skill

- Dresses self
- Attends to a task independently
- Clean-up skills
- Performs daily routines

Daily Routine Examples

- Snaps, zips, buttons, velcos
- Uses bathroom and washes hands
- Puts toys away when finished
- Clears dishes after eating;
hangs up coat independently

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Skill

- Takes turns
- Is able to separate
- Listens to adults
- Focuses on teacher
- Follows simple rules
- Is flexible in transitions
- Is persistent and asks for help when needed
- Engages in two way conversation
- Uses words to resolve conflicts
- Plays or works cooperatively

Daily Routine Examples

- Takes turns while playing a game
- Leaves parents easily
- Takes direction from adults
- Turns their attention toward teacher
- Eyes up here, mouths closed
- Moves easily with preparation
- Tries independently, then asks
- Can answer a question when asked
- Asks for toy rather than grabbing it
- Colors or builds something together

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Skill

- Recognizes primary colors
- Recognizes common shapes
- Understands cooking concepts
- Aware of calendar concepts
- Understands spatial awareness
- Sorts objects into groups
- Understands numbers, quantity

Daily Routine Examples

- Let's wear your blue shirt today
- Play "I Spy" shapes around you
- Tries measuring while baking
- Creates a "countdown" tool
- Moves toy up, down, over, under
- Sorts clean laundry



Transitioning to Kindergarten with your family's daily routine

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Skill

Listening

- Follows two and three step directions
- Gains meaning by listening
- Listens to a story attentively

Writing

- Uses scribbles, shapes, letters, pictures, or words to represent a thought or idea
- Understands print has meaning
- Recognizes their own name in print
- Practices writing their name

Speaking

- Speaks clearly
- Makes needs known through talking
- Uses expanded vocabulary

Reading

- Shows appreciation for books and reading
- Understands that books have print
- Is aware of rhyming words
- Differentiates between letters and numbers

Daily Routine Examples

- Finishes snack, tosses napkin, gets a book to read quietly
- Gives an example from a story
- Retells events of a story
- Draws a picture and then explains details about their drawing when asked by an adult
- Knows that signs have meaning
- Can pick out their own name from a list of classmates
- Attempts to write their name
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Uses appropriate words when asking for something
- Tries out new words when heard
- Is read to daily for at least fifteen minutes
- Reads or looks at books from front to back
- Plays rhyming games together
- Can identify some letters and numbers



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Skill

- Able to perform simple fine motor skills
- Combines movement to accomplish physical tasks

Daily Routine Examples

- Assembling puzzles; holding writing tools correctly, using scissors
- Runs, jumps, throws, kicks, hops

Preschool Screening in District #273

- ◆ In Minnesota, all children are required to complete Early Childhood Screening before they enter public kindergarten.
- ◆ Screening should be done when your child is 3-1/2 years old.
- ◆ Screening is a FREE check of your child's development (speech & language skills, motor skills & concepts) height, weight, vision and hearing.
- ◆ It's purpose is to help identify health or learning concerns that may require special attention before a child enters kindergarten. It's not beneficial to wait until your child is older to complete this screening.
- ◆ Screening does NOT determine "kindergarten readiness."



For more information about Preschool Screening at Edina Public Schools, please call

Sue Kemper
952-848-4299.

If your children are not registered in the Edina Public Schools District Census, please call

Diane
952-848-4804.