

# KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST

\*These milestones are age-appropriate for kindergarten, but will not deny entry if unmet\*

\*Required to enter Kindergarten: the child is 5 years old on or before August 31 of the current school year\*

## Self-Help Skills

- Can use the bathroom independently and complete accompanying hygiene tasks
- Able to dress self (puts on coat, fastens snaps, buttons and zippers)
- States full name and age

## Social/Emotional Skills

- Separates from caregivers without excessive upset
- Plays/shares with other children
- Waits their turn
- Attends to an adult-directed task for at least 5 minutes
- Recognizes and responds to other people's feelings
- Uses "please" and "thank you"

## Language Skills

- Expresses needs and wants verbally
- Speaks in complete sentences (5 to 6 words)
- Is generally understood by adults
- Uses words, not physical action, to express emotions such as anger or disappointment
- Understands and follows two-step directions
- Understands positional vocabulary (i.e. on top of, below, next to)

## Gross Motor Skills

- Runs and skips
- Jumps with feet together and hops while balancing on one foot.
- Climbs stairs with alternating feet
- Walks backwards
- Bounces a ball
- Attempts a two-handed catch of a ball

## Fine Motor Skills

- Holds pencil/crayon in a non-fisted grip
- Able to control scissors to complete an intentional task
- Traces lines and basic shapes
- Copies basic figures such as a circle, square and straight line

## Math Skills

- Counts from 1 to 10
- Recognizes/points to/identifies basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, rectangle)
- Beginning to count with one-on-one correspondence
- Can sort items by one or more attributes
- Identifies, either verbally or by pointing to, the colors of crayons in the 8-count box (black, blue, brown, green, orange, red, purple, yellow)

## Literacy/Phonemic Awareness Skills

- Enjoys being read to/listening to stories
- Recognizes environmental print (familiar logos, signs and words)
- Knows how to handle a book (i.e. holds book right side up, knows where it starts and ends)
- Recites the alphabet
- Identifies some letters and some of the sounds they make, either by sound to letter or letter to sound
- Recognizes own name in print
- Able to discern whether or not two words rhyme, may be able to provide a third rhyme for the words
- Tries to write own name or other ideas by using symbols or letters
- Can draw a picture to express an idea

# SUGGESTED SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- Practice the following skills with your child: tying shoes, using zippers, fastening buttons
- Encourage your child to be active. Run, skip, hop and jump!
- Visit the public library and READ, READ, READ!
- Write your child's name and have them trace it. Have them write it on their own.
- Draw, color, or paint with your child...get creative!
- Practice letter names and sounds
- Have your child count by 1s as high as they can
- Establish a bedtime routine
- Go to the park/pool or have a playdate to let your child socialize with friends
- Practice morning routines
- Practice basic shapes and colors
  - Square, Circle, Triangle, Ellipse (previously known as Oval), Rectangle
  - Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple, Pink, Brown, Black, White, Gray
- Have your child become familiar with days of the week and months of the year
- Practice number recognition
- Have your child memorize their first and last name (See if they can recognize it on paper)
- Give your child a job so they can practice following directions (picking up their room, helping with dinner, teaching *you* something, etc.)
- Talk with your child about EVERYTHING, all the time, to strengthen their oral communication and vocabulary
- Practice how to hold a pencil and how to use scissors
- Encourage your child's independence