# Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

30 skills teachers actually look for · ages 4–5

Tick one box per skill: ☐ Not yet ◐ Getting there ☑ Got it ★ = what teachers notice most on day one

## Self-Care Independence

The skills teachers quietly care about most.

| | | Not yet | Getting there | Got it |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ★ | 1. Uses the toilet independently, including wiping and flushing | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 2. Washes hands with soap without being reminded every time | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 3. Blows their own nose and bins the tissue | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 4. Opens and closes lunchbox, water bottle and snack containers | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 5. Puts on and zips a coat unaided | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 6. Manages shoes — Velcro alone, laces with help | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 7. Asks an adult for help clearly instead of melting down | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## Social & Emotional

A quiet child who listens and follows along is doing brilliantly.

| | | Not yet | Getting there | Got it |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ★ | 8. Takes turns and shares materials without a major meltdown | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 9. Follows two-step instructions (“pick up the blocks, then wash your hands”) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 10. Sits and listens to a story for about 10 minutes | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | 11. Plays alongside and with other children in group games | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ | 12. Names feelings in simple words — happy, sad, cross, scared | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | 13. Waits briefly without interrupting | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## Early Literacy

Reading bedtime stories — and chatting about them — is the best practice there is.

| | Not yet | Getting there | Got it |
|---|---|---|---|
| ★ 14. Recognises their own first name in print (peg, drawer, register) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 15. Holds a book the right way up and turns pages one at a time | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ 16. Listens to a picture book and talks about what happened | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 17. Joins in with rhymes and spots rhyming words (cat/hat) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ 18. Describes something in sentences of five or more words | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 19. Recognises some letters, especially those in their name | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## Early Math

Kitchen counting, stair counting, counting dogs on a walk — that's the whole curriculum.

| | Not yet | Getting there | Got it |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20. Counts aloud to 20 | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 21. Recognises numerals 1–10 | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 22. Counts small groups of objects one by one, pointing at each | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 23. Understands "more" and "less" with real things | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 24. Sorts objects by colour, size or shape | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 25. Continues simple patterns (red–blue–red–blue) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## Fine-Motor Skills

Strength comes from play, not worksheets: playdough, Lego, stickers, tongs.

| | Not yet | Getting there | Got it |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26. Holds a crayon with a proper-ish tripod grip | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ 27. Cuts along a line with child-safe scissors | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 28. Copies simple shapes — circle, cross, their first letter | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ 29. Buttons, zips and fastens things | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ★ 30. Threads beads, builds with small blocks, or finishes simple puzzles | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

Every child develops at their own pace — this list describes what's typical, not mandatory. This is a readiness guide, not a medical or educational assessment: if you have genuine developmental concerns, speak to your GP or health visitor. · brightplaydays.com