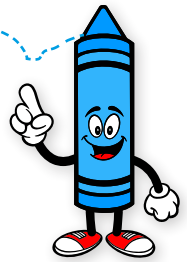


For more helpful Kindergarten Readiness tips, please visit uwlc.net/SuccessBy6 or papromiseforchildren.com



This Guide is brought to you by



A Community Innovation Zone partnership with United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, Freckles & Frills, Kennedy Elementary and McNichols Plaza.

On the **F.A.S.T.** Track to Success!

Getting Ready for

Kindergarten

Helping you and your child prepare for success!

A Community Innovation Zone Partnership with United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, Freckles & Frills, Kennedy Elementary and McNichols Plaza



SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT



School **is** **cool!**

The transition into Kindergarten is a significant milestone for your child and an exciting time for your family! But, parents often wonder... *Is my child ready? What can I do to help them prepare?*

We're here to help! We've created this checklist of "readiness skills" and resources to help both you and your child along the way.

Remember, all children develop at their own pace, so it's important to realize this readiness checklist should only be used as a guide for you and your child to prepare for Kindergarten but not used as a "must-have" complete list of needed skills.



Kindergarten teachers say children are ready for Kindergarten when...

They can do things themselves.

- Use the bathroom by themselves and wash hands
- Follow healthy habits such as covering mouth to sneeze or cough
- Feed themselves independently

They get along with others.

- Take turns with other children during activities
- Participate with others during a group activity or play
- Solve problems without hitting or shouting

They pay attention.

- Follow directions and routines and change activities easily
- Stay on task for 5 to 15 minutes
- Listen in a group
- Show an interest in read aloud stories

They are getting ready to read.

- Hold and look at books correctly
- Look at pictures to tell what is happening in a story
- Listen attentively to stories and conversations

They communicate with others.

- Speak in complete sentences
- Follow directions with at least two steps
- Speech is understood by most people

Practice following multi-step directions such as "Pick up your toy and put it on the shelf."



They know letters, numbers, colors and shapes.

- Identify basic shapes like a circle, square and triangle
- Identify and name colors
- Recognize most letters of the alphabet
- Recognize his/her name in print
- Recognize written numbers from one through 10

They are safe by knowing...

- How to contact a trusted, safe adult in an emergency
- How to cross streets: look both ways, cross at safe corners
- To be aware of danger and avoiding it such as hot or sharp objects

Kindergarten Readiness for Families

While you're helping make sure your child is ready to start Kindergarten, it's important that you're prepared for this milestone as well! You can make sure that you and your child start out right by remembering these important parent responsibilities.

Attendance is very important.

Kindergarten skills build daily and your child needs to be in school every day to succeed and not fall behind.

Tardiness is not allowed.

Your child needs to be on time and they need you to provide this for them. Their school day in Kindergarten starts immediately when the bell rings and children don't want to miss opening circle time or any learning opportunities.

Always ask your child about the best part of their day.

Your child may not answer right away, but let them know you care and that you know education is important.

Check your child's backpack daily.

Look for clues about what your child is learning and try some similar activities at home.

Read all papers that are sent home.

Remember to return papers that you need to sign. There are many papers sent home during the first week of school. Don't worry; these notes slow down after the first few weeks!

It's important to stay in contact with the school.

Be sure to let the school know the best way to reach you and if your address or phone number has changed. Call or email if you have any questions or concerns. Parent/teacher meetings can be arranged at any time.

Read to your child everyday.

Help your child develop a love for reading. Try to set aside time everyday to read with your child. This can be a special, quiet time—such as bedtime—that both of you will look forward to!

Visit your local library, and let your child select a special book to read together!



Offer encouragement and support to your child.

The transition to school can be a tough adjustment for your child. But it can also be an exciting new adventure for you and your child. Embrace it and enjoy the journey. Being in kindergarten will spark new conversations and discoveries that will be exciting for you both. Make sure they know you love them and support them. Encourage them and listen to them. A hug and "I love you" is needed by every child!



Help your child be confident and ready to learn...and succeed!

As your child enters Kindergarten, they will begin exploring a whole new world away from the familiarity of home and family. It's natural for them to feel uncertain and perhaps even a little fearful about this transition. But, your encouragement and consistent support will help your child gain the confidence needed to succeed!



Help your child be a good friend.

The beginning of Kindergarten often marks the start of your child's developing new friendships with classmates. Discuss with your child what it means to be a friend and help them learn empathy by role playing how they would respond if someone was happy, sad, angry or mean.

Practice problem-solving skills.

When your child encounters a problem, help them to remain patient and think about different solutions. Help foster their independence and confidence by encouraging them to try the solutions they come up with until they find the answer that works. You can also help this process by thinking out loud with your child as you are solving daily problems.

Provide safety and security.

It's important for children to practice telling someone such as a teacher or other trusted adult that they need help. It's also important to make sure your child knows their first and last name, home address and phone number, their parent's first and last name and the name of their school.

These are the first questions any security or police officer would ask your child in an emergency.



You are your child's first and most important teacher!

Parents set the stage for success in school by making home a loving and nurturing place where children can learn, grow and thrive! Children learn best when they have proper health and nutrition, a safe and stable home life and activities that let them explore their natural curiosity and be creative.

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher, opening a world of new experiences for your child and helping them learn new, exciting skills. You don't need fancy, expensive things to prepare your child for success...the most important ingredient is YOU!

Spark curiosity and creativity.

Ask your child questions that can't be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." Instead of asking "Do you see that bird?" add "What other things can fly?"

Use everyday moments to learn.

If you're in the car, at the store, at the park, at the playground or anywhere you can imagine, ask your child to point out shapes, colors, letters and numbers or ask them to count certain objects.

Help your child learn to pay attention.

Playing a fun, simple game such as "I Spy" can help your child learn to focus their attention. Card games such as "Go Fish", "Concentration" and board games as well as reading together are all good attention-building activities to do with your child.

