Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten?

Visit [www.ErieTogether.org](http://www.ErieTogether.org) to download the “My Path to Kindergarten” progress chart and for more ideas and resources designed to help you prepare your child for kindergarten.

### Fun Things to Do with Your Child

**Turn chores like laundry into learning activities.** Ask your child to identify colors, or count the number of socks.  
*Develop Language, Math & Social skills*

**Play the “I Spy Game.”** Say “I spy something red.” Let your child guess what it is.  
*Develop Listening, Math & Social skills*

**Talk, sing and read to your child.** Your child learns by hearing sounds and words at any age. The more you talk, the more they learn.  
*Develop Listening & Comprehension skills*

**Take a walk together and then follow it up with a book, song, or rhyme about what you experienced.**  
*Develop Listening, Comprehension, Letters/Words & Physical skills*

**During the next grocery trip, have your child assist you in matching the coupon with the item.**  
*Develop Math, Health/Wellness & Social skills*

**Read with your child every day, whether it’s a book, traffic sign, grocery list, newspaper or a cereal box.**  
*Develop Listening, Comprehension & Letters/Words skills*

**Using a paper plate, encourage your child to draw different faces, or use face parts cut from magazines, and then glue them to the paper plate.**  
*Develop Writing, Creative Thinking & Physical skills*

**Ask your child questions that can’t be answered by just “yes” or “no.” Instead of just asking “Do you see that pretty bird?” add “What other things fly?”**  
*Develop Listening & Speaking skills*
The Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

During children’s early years, families and child care providers can ensure children are prepared for school by helping them develop the skills listed here.

**Language and Literacy Development**

- **Listening and Speaking**
  - Follow multiple step directions
  - Listen and respond to conversations with others
  - Speak clearly using multiple word sentences
  - Ask and answer questions

- **Story Sense/Comprehension**
  - Make predictions based on pictures and background knowledge
  - Retell stories with some understanding of sequence (beginning, middle, and end)
  - Understand the concept of an author and an illustrator
  - Make personal connections and answer questions about stories
  - Understand the difference between real and make-believe
  - Identify characters, setting, and main events
  - Ask questions about unfamiliar words
  - Repeat sentences/phrases in books

- **Writing**
  - Draw a recognizable picture
  - Explain pictures
  - Form letters from top to bottom

- **Book Handling/Directionality**
  - Hold books appropriately
  - Understand that print contains a message
  - Understand that print moves from left to right and top to bottom
  - Identify the front, back and title page of a book

- **Letters and Words**
  - Recognize and write their name (upper case followed by lower case)
  - Recognize some upper and lower case letters
  - Link some letter names with sounds
  - Clap syllables with assistance
  - Identify and say beginning sounds of words (initial sounds)
  - Recite rhymes and songs
  - Understand the difference between letters and words
  - Recognize everyday print (traffic signs, cereal boxes, etc.)

- **Mathematical Thinking and Expression**
  - Identify the difference between letters and numbers
  - Identify colors, shapes, and repeating patterns
  - Show some sense of different and alike
  - Match and sequence objects and pictures
  - Count to twenty

- **Scientific Thinking and Technology**
  - Awareness of rules and consequences for breaking a rule
  - Identify basic American symbols (American Flag, bald eagle, state flag, etc.)
  - Identify a problem and discuss possible solutions
  - Identify needs and wants
  - Make a choice and explain the reason

- **Social Studies Thinking**
  - Make a prediction and investigate
  - Name the four seasons
  - Name some technologies used at school and home (phone, computer, TV, camera)

- **Creative Thinking and Expression**
  - Initiate music and movement activities
  - Use a variety of art materials (crayons, pencils, markers, paint, chalk, play-dough)
  - Draw a self-portrait

- **Health, Wellness, and Physical Development**
  - Hop, skip, and jump
  - Button, tie, snap, and zip
  - Hold writing, cutting, and eating utensils
  - Use scissors and glue
  - Dress independently (coat, shoes, boots, etc.)
  - Participate in games and songs

- **Social and Emotional Skills**
  - Greet others and say please, thank you, and excuse me
  - Share and take turns with others
  - Show respect for self, others, and authority
  - Follow classroom routines at home and in the classroom