

# “71 Things Your Child Should Know Before Kindergarten”

<http://www.icanteachmychild.com/2012/03/71-things-your-child-needs-to-know-before-kindergarten/>

Many parents wonder what the most important things for their child to know before Kindergarten are. This is a list I found that gives a good guideline of where your child should be coming into Kinder. Please remember that it is not a requirement to meet all goals listed, but is a suggestion to have your child at least exposed to each of these. I think you will find that your child already can do most of these, or is at least working on them! Many of these things naturally occur in your daily life. You do this by engaging your child through conversation and reading to them.

## Personal and Social Development

### Approach to learning

- Shows eagerness and curiosity as a learner
- Persists in task and seeks help when encountering a problem
- Is generally pleasant and cooperative

### Self-Control

- Follows rules and routines
- Manages transitions (going from one activity to the next)
- Demonstrates normal activity level

### Interactions with Others

- Interacts easily with one or more children
- Interacts easily with familiar adults
- Participates in group activities
- Plays well with others
- Takes turns and shares
- Cleans up after play

### Conflict Resolution

- Seeks adult help when needed to resolve conflicts
- Uses words to resolve conflicts

## Language and Literacy

### Listening

- Listens with understanding to directions and conversations
- Follows one-step directions
- Follows two-step directions

### Speaking

- Speaks clearly enough to be understood without contextual clues
- Relates experiences with some understanding of sequences of events

### Literature and Reading

- Listens with interest to stories read aloud
- Shows interest in reading-related activities
- Retells information from a story
- Sequences three pictures to tell a logical story

### Writing

- Uses pictures to communicate ideas
- Uses scribbles, shapes, and letter-like symbols to write words or ideas

### Alphabet Knowledge

- Recites/sings alphabet
- Matches upper-case letters
- Matches lower-case letters
- Identifies upper-case letters
- Identifies lower-case letters

## Mathematical Thinking

### Patterns and Relationships

- Sorts by color, shape, and size

- Orders or serializes several objects on the basis of one attribute
- Recognizes simple patterns and duplicates them

### Number concept and operations

- Rote counts to 20
- Counts objects with meaning to 10
- Matches numerals
- Identifies by naming, numerals 0-10

### Geometry and spatial relations

- Identifies 4 shapes- circle, square, rectangle, triangle
- Demonstrates concepts of positional/directional concepts (up/down, over/under, in/out, behind/in front of, beside/between, top/bottom, inside/outside, above/below, high/low, right/left, off/on, first/last, far/near, go/stop).

### Measurement

- Shows understanding of and uses comparative words (big/little, large/small, short/long, tall/short, slow/fast, few/many, empty/full, less/more).

## Physical Development

### Gross-Motor Skills

- Pedals and steers a tricycle
- Jumps in place, landing on two feet
- Jumps consecutively- 7 jumps
- Balances on one foot for 5 seconds
- Hops on one foot 2-3 hops
- Hops on one foot- 6 ft.
- Throws a ball with direction- 5 ft.
- Catches a thrown ball with arms and body
- Climbs a playground ladder
- Skips smoothly for 20 feet

### Fine-Motor Skills

- Stacks 10, one-inch blocks
- Strings 4 1/2" beads in two minutes
- Completes a seven piece interlocking puzzle
- Makes a pancake, snake, and ball from playdough
- Grasps pencil correctly
- Copies: vertical line, horizontal line, circle, cross, square, V, triangle
- Copies first name
- Prints first name without a model
- Grasps scissors correctly
- Cuts within 1/4" of a 6" straight line on construction paper
- Cuts out a 3" square on construction paper
- Cuts out a 3" triangle on construction paper
- Cuts out a 3" circle on construction paper
- Uses a glue stick appropriately
- Uses appropriate amount of glue for tasks

## The Arts

### Creative Arts

- Identifies 10 colors: red, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple, black, white, brown, pink
- Uses a variety of art materials for tactile experience and exploration

### Music/Movement

- Participates in group music experiences
- Participates in creative movement/dance

### Creative Dramatics

- Makes believe with objects
- Takes on pretend roles and situations