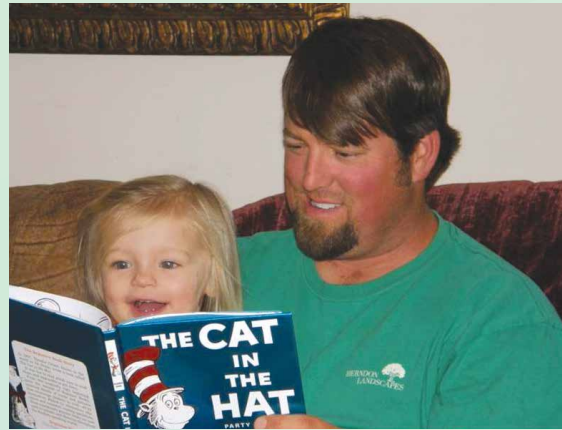


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These can help your child be ready for math:

- can count a number of things (up to five)
- can name three shapes (circle, square, triangle)
- understands adding to or taking away
- can put numbers 1-5 in order
- can count to 10
- understands “more than” and “less than”
- understands time concepts, like today, tomorrow, summer, bedtime



The Blueprint for Zero to Five Kindergarten Transition Team for Huntsville/Madison County

AL Early Intervention System -- Huntsville
Alabama A & M University
Calhoun Community College
Chamber of Commerce of
Huntsville/Madison County
Child Care Central
Community Action Partnership/Head Start
Heart of the Valley YMCA
Huntsville City Schools
Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
J.F. Drake State Technical College
Madison Academy
Madison City Schools
Madison County Children’s Policy Council
Madison County Schools
Parents and Child Care Providers
Premier Schools
The Schools Foundation
United Way of Madison County
United Cerebral Palsy – CCEP Project

For a complete list of sources and resources, visit
www.SmartStartAlabama.org.

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4th Printing

These can help your child work and play:

- can tell if he or she is a boy or girl
- can tell first and last name
- can tell parent’s first and last name
- can tell own age
- is able to tell what she needs to friends and grownups
- plays and works with other children well
- is excited about learning new things
- can take care of basic needs like dressing, washing hands, bathroom use
- can be away from parents and family without stress
- knows how to work in a group by sharing and taking turns
- can ask for help when he needs it
- can draw a person with a body, head, legs, and arms

Other things that will help your child in kindergarten:

- can use pencils and pens and small scissors to cut a line across paper
- can copy things like a straight line, circle, X, triangle
- can run, skip, hop, jump
- can catch and bounce a ball
- uses the same hand most of the time (left or right)



To Parents of 3, 4 and 5 year olds: I need YOU to help me be ready for school!

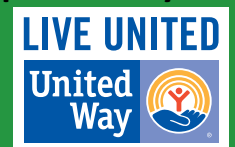
Madison County Children’s Policy Council Blueprint for Zero to Five Kindergarten Transition Team



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Hooray, it's almost time for school!

Being ready and doing well in the first few years of school sets the stage for years of success. Learning begins at birth, and there are some important things you can do at home to help make sure children walk into kindergarten ready for success.



This is a list of suggested skills and activities that prepare children to be ready for today's kindergarten program. This list was developed by the *Blueprint for Zero to Five* Kindergarten Transition Team made up of child care, Head Start, PreK, parents, schools, and others who work with young children and families in Huntsville/Madison County.

Parents are children's first and most important teachers and help set the tone for school success. With your support and encouragement, your child learns that school is important and that you look forward to a successful and fun year! You can use the following checklist to help your child get off to a great start.

Prepare **today** for the future.



Graduating Class of 2029!

A Parent's Guide to Kindergarten Success

- I go to my child's school for a visit or open house before the first day. I take my child for a visit if this is possible.
- I make sure I know everything I need to enroll my child so that she can start on the first day.
- I make sure the school knows how to reach me during the day, including updating any changes during the year.
- I read and respond to the school letters sent home to parents and display the school calendar.
- I make sure we have routines for daily activities including bedtime, tooth-brushing, bathing, mealtimes, reading together, and talking about daily activities.
- I let my child know that his learning is important and that I want him to do well.
- I have guidelines about how she should behave so that she can do her best.
- I limit the amount of TV/screen time and check the types of programs and games my child views.
- I read with my child and help my child in a learning activity for at least 15 minutes each day.
- I see that my child gets:
 - ✓ 8-10 hours sleep on school nights
 - ✓ at least an hour of active play each day
 - ✓ 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day (and limit sugary drinks/food).
- I send my child to school in comfortable play clothes and label all clothing and belongings and help her learn to take care of her things.
- I show a positive attitude about school and show an interest in school projects.
- I make sure my child is **at school every day** and on time, unless he is sick.
- I make sure my child has health insurance, regular health and dental checkups, and I follow up on any referrals and recommendations.



Pre-K Skills for School Readiness

What should my child know and be able to do when she gets to kindergarten? These are the important kinds of things that will help your child be "ready".

Because of developmental differences and/or physical capabilities, every child is not expected to master every skill before entering kindergarten. If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact the special education department in your local school district.

These will help your child with learning. My child usually:

- speaks in complete sentences
- understands and follows directions with at least two steps
- understands words related to position, direction, size such as like and different, top/bottom, first/last, big/little, up/down
- talks about a story being read and thinks about what happens next
- matches two like pictures
- can sort objects that are alike by size, color, and shape
- can sing simple songs and repeat stories
- can do simple puzzles up to five pieces
- can point to five colors
- can recognize his own name in print
- tries to write his name
- knows how to use a book, knows front and back, first page and last page
- can name words that rhyme
- can name 10 alphabet letters that I point to



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