



Vacaville Unified School District
Educational Services Center
401 Nut Tree Road, Vacaville, California 95687-3508



What Can I Do As Parent to Help My Child Prepare for Kindergarten?

Ready?

As a parent, there are some ways that you can help your child succeed in kindergarten. Research shows that language development (speaking and listening) during early childhood is important for success in school. Children don't need to know how to read before kindergarten, but they need to practice many skills to get ready.

Set?

Children's play is their work, and they learn by doing and experimenting. Fascinated by the world around them, they love to ask questions and talk about everything. You increase their curiosity by showing interest in what they are saying.

Go!

Most children entering kindergarten can perform the tasks listed in the following sections at least sometimes. Your child's development may differ from that of others, being a little faster or slower in a certain area. Have patience, trust your judgment and don't be overly critical. If you make time for your child and have fun, the rest will follow.

Language and Reading Most kindergartners can:

- State their names, home addresses and telephone numbers.
- Identify some labels and signs (like McDonald's or stop sign)
- Know some letters and make letter-sound matches.
- Understand that writing carries a message.
- Enjoy listening to and talking about storybooks.
- Ask and answer questions related to the story.
- "Read" familiar books alone, often by memory, using picture cues.
- Understand that we read English from left to right, top to bottom.
- Speak clearly and understandably.

Social and Emotional Skills Most kindergartners can:

- Play cooperatively with others.

- Follow a classroom routine.
- Label and express feelings and emotions.
- Try new activities willingly.
- Stand up for themselves but know that bullying and violence are wrong.
- Wait fairly patiently for a turn or to speak.
- Take care of personal needs such as toilet, hand washing, and clothing.
- Pay attention to a story or activity for ten minutes.

General Knowledge and Motor Skills Most kindergartners can:

- Identify body parts, such as head, toe, and elbow.
- Draw a vertical and horizontal line.
- Cut paper with blunt scissors.
- Hold a pencil correctly.
- Copy letters and shapes, such as circles and squares.
- Understand the ideas of numbers, days of the week.

Questions?

Please call the school and speak with the school's principal.