Kindergarten Readiness Expectations

Helping your soon-to-be kindergartener be successful in school.
According to Minnesota statute, a child is ready for kindergarten when he/she:

- Is at least 5 years of age by September 1st of the child’s start of kindergarten
- Has received early childhood screening
- Has received medically acceptable immunizations

Examples of knowledge and skills listed in the standards are below. This list is only to show examples of children’s development and is not intended to be a checklist of skills.

Student Self Help Skills

- Eats a mix of healthy foods.
- Sleeps 10-11 hours per night.
- Says full name.
- Uses toilet without help.
- Washes & dries own hands.
- Blows nose, covers sneezes & cough.
- Tells others what they need.
- Puts on own shoes and coat.

Social & Emotional Skills

- Listens to adults & follows rules.
- Keeps hands & feet to self.
- Gets along with other children.
- Plays with other children and solves problems with kindness.
- Sits and listens for a short time.
- Names feelings and controls actions.
- Listens to a story without interrupting.
- Stays with task even when difficult.
- Tries new things.

Language & Literacy Skills

- Likes books and being read to.
- Knows that letters have sounds.
- Knows rhymes and sings.
- Shows interest in sounds and words.
- Holds a book and turns pages.
- Knows upper and lower case letters.
- Knows words that rhyme and joins rhyming games.
- Talks to kids and adults in full sentences.

Math Skills

- Knows numbers 0-10 in any order.
- Counts to 20 or higher.
- Knows basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, etc.).
- Names 10 colors.
- Counts a group of 10 objects.
- Sees & completes simple patterns (red, blue, red, blue).

Small & Large Motor Skills

- Holds scissors correctly.
- Cuts straight and curved lines with some skill.
- Holds pencil, crayon, and marker in the right way.
- Writes name with only the first letter capital.
- Catches & throws a ball.
- Gallops and hops on one foot.