

FIRST GRADE READINESS CHECKLIST

Although every child is special and unique and develops at their own pace, there are certain skills and knowledge sets that most educators and developmental experts agree are essential for social and academic growth, development, and achievement in school. As you look through the following checklist of essential developmental skills children need before they enter first grade, please keep in mind that young children need continued opportunities to attain any new skill; a “one-shot” approach to teaching is not sufficient for building a strong base of attitudes, aptitudes and abilities.

Social skills

- Follows rules and routines at home and in kindergarten
- Uses materials purposefully and respectfully
- Comfortably adapts to changes
- Shows eagerness and curiosity as a learner
- Sustains attention to a single task over a period of time
- Works, plays and shares with others
- Participates in group activities
- Respects the feelings and rights of others
- Uses words to resolve conflicts
- Seeks adult help when needed

Reading & comprehension

- Listens with interest to stories read aloud
- Retells a simple story
- Recognizes the association between spoken and written words
- Recognizes all the letters of the alphabet in order
- Distinguishes between and prints capital and lowercase letters
- Associates letters and sounds
- Distinguishes likenesses and differences of letter sounds in spoken words
- Recognizes rhymes and rhyming patterns
- Makes predictions about a story or passage based on the title and/or pictures
- Identifies words and constructs meaning from picture clues in text
- Identifies basic sight words
- Distinguishes fact from fiction
- Begins to understand simple punctuation marks (period, question mark, etc.)
- Locates the title, author name, illustrator name and table of contents

Writing

- Reads and writes own name
- Tells a story using pictures
- Uses letters or shapes to depict words or ideas
- Writes familiar words
- Copies or writes words to convey messages
- Participates in group dictated stories
- Builds simple words and sentences
- Demonstrates left-to-right progression, and top-to-bottom progression
- Handles writing tools correctly

Language & listening skills

- Understands and follows simple directions
- Listens to others for short periods of time without interrupting
- Participates in discussions and conversations
- Asks questions
- Speaks clearly to convey messages and requests
- Uses complete sentences
- Composes oral stories
- Retells a simple story with basic elements of beginning, middle and end

Numbers, operations & problem solving skills

- Names numerals 0 through 30
- Writes numerals 0 through 20
- Uses counting skills to add to 10
- Classifies and compares objects
- Recognizes, duplicates and extends patterns and relationships of objects, symbols and shapes
- Solves problems by guessing and checking using manipulatives or fingers

Geometry & measurement

- Estimates and measures real quantities using non-standard units (blocks or paperclips)
- Understands and uses comparative words (long and short, heavy and light, etc.)
- Identifies, labels and creates a variety of shapes

Math in action: Telling time, counting money

- Shows an understanding of the calendar and time
- Knows the days of the week and months of the year