

**WILL YOUR
CHILD TURN
5 YEARS OLD
ON OR BEFORE
AUGUST 31?**

If so, please contact your
community's elementary
school in the Spring.
Let's get your child on track
for the school year.



**READY
OR
NOT...**



START STRONG
KINDER READY

FOR MORE TIPS &
INTERACTIVE SKILL
DEVELOPMENT GAMES VISIT:



RSSed.org -> Students ->
Early Learning/Pre-K ->
Kindergarten Readiness



*Kindergarten
is coming!*





★ Kids grow up so fast!

Before you can blink, your baby will be on the way to kindergarten.

Will you be ready? Will they?

Luckily, you can start today to prepare your child & make sure they start strong & are prepared to make new friends, learn, & have fun!

Practice these important skills & learn more at RSSed.org.

What skills do kindergartners need when they arrive at school?

Socialization Skills

Academic Skills

Language Skills

Self-Help & Fine Motor Skills

Procedure & Concept Skills

What can parents & caregivers say to teach these social skills?

- **Participate willingly in new activities:** "I'm glad you tried to tell the lady your order. I know it can be scary to do new things."
- **Stick with a task for 5-10 minutes:** "Are you able to keep trying for just one more minute?"
- **Sit quietly when necessary:** "When we are listening to the doctor, I need you to sit still & wait, but you will be able to talk & wiggle when we eat our snack."
- **Self-calm:** "It's OK to be mad. Let's try blowing out the mad feelings like we blow out candles."
- **Play nicely with others:** "Let's take turns. When we take turns, everyone gets a chance to play & have fun."
- **Communicate needs:** "Remember to use your words when you want to play with the toy she has right now."
- **Correctly interpret other people's behavior & emotions:** "See his face right now and how his smile is upside down? What do you think he is feeling?"
- **Have social conversations & answer questions:** "I'm proud of you for telling the waitress your favorite food when she asked."



expanding LANGUAGE

What can parents & caregivers say to teach these social skills?

- **Sing the ABC song:** “Remember, it’s L - M - N - O - P. That’s five different letters.”
- **Follow multi-step directions:** “Close the book & put it on the table.”
- **Speak clearly:** “Yes, but say coat with a /t/ sound like this c - oa - t. Let’s say it together.”
- **Express wants & needs through words:** “Remember to use your words & ask when you need another paper instead of taking your friend’s paper.”
- **Learn & recognize common object names & their actions:** “Can you find the big red “STOP” sign? What does it mean? What can we use a cup for? What does a light switch do?”
- **Listen to all directions before doing:** “Thank you for listening to everything before you got started, so I didn’t have to repeat the directions.”



growing ACADEMIC STARS

What can parents & caregivers say to teach these academic skills?

- **Know & write name:** “I’ll write your name & you trace it.”
- **Know & say date of birth:** “Tell me your birthdate, so we can both remember it.”
- **Identify shapes & colors:** “What shape is your plate?”
- **Show interest in patterns & sequences:** “Look at those lines on the road. Sometimes the two lines break up & are short pieces.”
- **Identify letters by name, sound & give an example of a word/object:** “Look at this letter & tell me its name. What sound does it make? Can you tell me something that begins with that letter/ sound?”
- **Count up to 20 & down from 10:** “Great job counting. Now let’s start at 10 & count backwards.”
- **Know the difference between capital & lowercase letters:** “Is this a big B or a little b? What do we call big letters? Yes, & little ones are lowercase.”
- **Understand the order of the day, & use time words like ‘morning’ & ‘night’:** “What part of the day do we brush our teeth?”
- **Recognize rhyming words:** “You’re finding lots of rhyming words. That’s great for reading!”



understanding PROCEDURES & CONCEPTS



building SELF-HELP & MOTOR SKILLS

What can parents & caregivers say to teach these motor skills?

- **Dress independently:** "Look at you! You're becoming an expert zipping up your jacket all by yourself."
- **Use the bathroom independently:** "Thank you for closing the door before using the restroom."
- **Open packages & eat independently:** "Can you try opening these fruit snacks? Can you put this straw into the juice box?"
- **Throw & catch a ball:** "You're throwing the ball so well! Your aim is improving."
- **Balance on one leg:** "Let's hold hands while you lift one leg off the ground. Now, I'm going to let go, so don't fall."
- **Skip & hop:** "That's great marching. Now add a little hop & step forward with the opposite leg. Then we can keep practicing to get faster."
- **Cut with scissors:** "Your cutting is getting better & better! That is such a straight line."
- **Draw with pencils or crayons:** "Can you practice drawing some shapes?"
- **Build with blocks:** "Let's see how tall & straight you can stack these blocks into a tower. What other things can you build with these blocks?"

What can parents & caregivers say to teach these motor skills?

- **Follow routines for mornings, meals, & bedtime:** "Putting toys away shows you're a good helper!"
- **Identify body parts:** "Touch your nose & then touch your ankle."
- **Sort objects by color & size:** "Can you sort these socks into big ones & little ones? Now can you sort them by color?"
- **Understand number relationships (after, before, between):** "What number comes between 3 and 5? What number is after 7?"
- **Pay attention throughout a task:** "Thank you for concentrating on what you were doing. That helped you not spill the food off your plate."
- **Problem solve:** "What should I do if I spill my drink? How could we start to clean up these toys? What can we do to reward the dog for sitting?"

