

West Virginia Department of Education Kindergarten Readiness

West Virginia defines kindergarten readiness as a stage of transition that encompasses the child's various learning experiences and general knowledge, physical well-being, social and emotional development, and familiarity and ease with expressing themselves and understanding language. Children develop holistically and at an individual rate. As a result, children enter school with varied levels of skill and learning experiences. These variances are further impacted by the resources children have access to prior to entering school including home, family and community supports.

Since each child's degree of readiness differs and is highly individualized, kindergarten readiness *also* entails the capacity of schools to be prepared to serve all children effectively regardless of a child's individual developmental level in each of the five developmental domains of school readiness. The five developmental domains of school readiness are:

1. Health and physical development,
 2. Social and emotional development,
 3. Language development and communication,
 4. Cognition and general knowledge, and
 5. A child's individual approaches to learning.
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West Virginia Department of Education Ready-for-School Checklist – Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?

The following indicators of school readiness are designed to you in preparing your child the transitional period of Kindergarten entry. The list of indicators is a guide to skills and experiences which are defined as developmentally appropriate for each domain. Each child develops differently in his or her own way, so the indicators should be viewed as typical daily experiences accomplished through everyday routines and activities with your child.

Health and Physical Development

My child:

- Identifies and makes healthy food choices
- Participates actively in games, outdoor play and other forms of exercise that develop large muscles
- Has daily experiences incorporating healthy habits, including hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and using and disposing of tissues
- Colors, paints, scribbles, works puzzles, practices self-help skills with snapping, lacing, buttoning, and zipping and other activities that help develop small muscles
- Receives regular medical, dental and vision care
- Has had all necessary immunizations

Social and Emotional Development

My child:

- Demonstrates independence and makes choices
- Adjusts to new situations and interacts with adults who are dependable and consistent
- Has opportunities to be with other children and is learning to play cooperatively
- Uses words solve problems and resolve conflicts; seeks adult help when needed
- Can follow simple directions up to three steps
- Can follow simple directions and rules for play
- Is learning to complete tasks, and activities
- Is curious and is motivated to learn
- Expresses basic needs and feelings appropriately
- Respects and shows concern for others.

Language and Literacy

My child:

- Has many opportunities to talk and listen to adults and children
- Is able to gain meaning by listening to a variety of situations such as one-on-one conversations, story time and play
- Is speaking in sentences with more than 5 words; speech is intelligible
- Is read to everyday
- Is learning about print and books
 - Can hold a book upright and turns the pages of a book correctly
 - Realizes that print proceeds from left to right
 - Knows that words are what you read
 - Knows that words have meaning
- Has opportunities to tell stories and re-read common books
- Is beginning to recognize rhyming words
- Is beginning to understand and use tenses – present, past and future
- Recognizes and uses common opposites, such as big-little, hard-soft, wet-dry.
- Has daily opportunities to draw and use writing utensils
- Is learning to recognize and write her name
- Has opportunities to draw, listen to and make music and to dance
- Has opportunities to explore various environments local to the community and have hands-on experiences– to see and touch objects, hear new sounds, smell and taste foods and watch things move
- Uses letter like shapes, symbols and letters to convey meaning

General Knowledge

My child:

- Is able to say his/her first name and know if they are a boy or a girl
- Has opportunities to notice similarities and differences
- Is learning to relate activities to times of the day and order of daily events
- Is encouraged to sort and classify things
- Is learning to count to ten and beyond
- Is encouraged to ask questions and solve problems
- Is learning words to describe directions, order and positions, such as up, down, first, second, in front, and behind
- Is learning to identify and name shapes and colors
- Show ideas and feelings through play. Uses creative play like music, dance and drama to express him or herself

If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact your family's primary care provider or see a list of resources below:

West Virginia Birth to Three Services 1-866-321-4RAU

Preschool Special Education Services 1-800-642-8541
