

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

What South Orange County kindergarten teachers really hope your child can do in September — from Deb Ku, Club Z! Tutoring of South Orange County.

The short list teachers actually ask about

- ☐ Uses the bathroom completely independently
- ☐ Opens their own lunch containers, wrappers and water bottle
- ☐ Zips a jacket and puts on shoes
- ☐ Takes care of their own backpack and belongings
- ☐ Follows a two-step direction ('put that away and come sit down')
- ☐ Separates from you without a meltdown
- ☐ Raises a hand and waits a turn to speak

Talking and listening

- ☐ Speaks in full sentences most adults can understand
- ☐ Tells a simple story with a beginning, middle and end
- ☐ Answers questions about a book you just read together
- ☐ Plays with rhymes ('what rhymes with cat?')

Early letters and numbers (nice, not required)

- ☐ Recognizes most uppercase letters
- ☐ Writes their own first name, more or less
- ☐ Counts to 10 and counts objects one at a time
- ☐ Recognizes a few beginning sounds ('S is for Sam')

Hands and pencil

- ☐ Holds a pencil or crayon with fingers, not a fist
- ☐ Uses child-safe scissors along a line
- ☐ Draws a person with a head, body, arms and legs

What you can skip worrying about

- ☐ Reading — kindergarten is for learning to read
- ☐ Writing in lowercase or on lined paper
- ☐ Addition and subtraction worksheets

Not sure where your child stands? Deb will tell you honestly — even if the answer is “she's fine, relax.”
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