School Readiness in Kentucky

School readiness means that each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child’s success and ability to be Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn & Ready to Succeed.

- Sorts and classifies objects
- Is learning to identify basic colors
- Is learning to recognize name and general shapes
- Counts up to 30
- Counts sets of objects up to 10
- Eats a balanced diet
- Gets plenty of rest
- Receives immunizations
- Receives regular medical and dental care
- Runs, jumps and does other activities
- Child is curious
- Has the ability to focus and listen
- Continues in tasks that are challenging
- Child plays in groups or pairs based on interest
- Child initiates learning experiences
- Is learning to play and share with others
- Follows simple rules and routines
- Shows curiosity
- Is learning to explore new things
- Is learning to work alone
- Knows full name
- Is learning to write own name
- Uses pictures to tell stories
- Is learning home address
- Speaks in five or six word sentences

The skills listed in the diagram above are helpful for children to know before entering Kindergarten. The indicators included represent the hopes and aspirations for incoming students, not the expectations. Kentucky recognizes that children develop and learn at different rates and times. Not every child will master all of the skills and behaviors listed above prior to Kindergarten. These skills and behaviors are NOT USED to determine school eligibility. In Kentucky, all children who meet the legal age requirement are entitled to enter public school.

Families, early care and education providers, schools and community partners must work together to provide developmental experiences that promote growth and learning, to ensure that all children enter school eager and excited to learn. The purpose of this definition is to give parents, child care and preschool, and communities an overview of the expectations of schools for incoming students and to help families and communities prepare children for school. In addition, a readiness profile provides teachers, child care providers, and parents a tool to better inform them on the specific strengths and needs of each individual child.

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