

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

Preparing your child for kindergarten begins the day he or she is born. It begins with little ears hearing the way adults interact respectfully with one another. It begins with little eyes watching parents control emotions and handle conflicts respectfully. Kindergarten readiness develops as children observe parents modeling manners and respect for others. It develops from predictable routines that provide a sense of security and continues to grow as children learn to listen and follow directions.

Self-confidence is an important part of kindergarten readiness. It develops as children successfully accomplish simple tasks and continues to grow as children learn about personal responsibility. Kindergarten readi-

ness grows in environments where children are taught that they are capable.

From the time your child is born, we suggest that you become familiar with the developmental milestones that should be mastered by each birthday. Type in “developmental milestones” in your search engine so that you know what to expect. If your child is lagging behind in any area, early intervention is important.

If you are a parent of a preschool child, you have probably overheard conversations about what it takes to get your child into the school of your choice. This brochure was written to give you valuable insights for determining whether your child is ready for kindergarten.



About the Author

Paula McMillen Williamson has been teaching preschool children, parents and teachers for over 30 years.

The concepts discussed in the Parent Education Series are used every day at Kinderplatz of Fine Arts.

You have the power to make a change in the number of school drop outs, teen pregnancies, drug use abuse and crime by starting early with your own child.

Together we can make a difference!



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Here Are Some Common Myths

MYTH: Children must know their complete address.

MYTH: My child did not get accepted because he could not write his name.

MYTH: My child did not get accepted because she could not read.

MYTH: Children need to know the difference in a nickel, dime and quarter.

MYTH: Children need to know how to use an iPad. Knowing how to use an iPad is not required, nor will it give children an upper hand.

Children who are ready for kindergarten:

- Separate from parents with ease.
- Have respectful interactions with parents and other adults.
- Are courteous and polite.
- Listen and follow directions.
- Exhibit self-control and confidence.
- Are able to express likes and dislikes respectfully.
- Play with peers cooperatively, share, and practice problem solving skills respectfully.
- Are able to regulate their emotions.
- Have mastered the qualities on our KFA weekly notes home check list.

A child who is ready for kindergarten exhibits healthy social and emotional development.

In the weeks preceding your visit and assessment at the school of your choice, remember:

- Your child will already be anxious about leaving his/her friends.
- If you exhibit stress, you may pass that stress on to your child.
- Stress in children will exhibit in meltdowns, regression and acting out.

DO NOT:

- Speak anxiously about the “test” with your friends and family in the hearing of your child. You will transfer your stress and anxiety to your child.
- Do not call the assessment a “test.”

DO:

- Stay calm and keep everything cheerful and stress free.
- Call the actual visit a play date at a new school.
- Make sure your child gets a good night’s sleep.
- Make sure he or she is feeling well.
- Make sure he or she eats a big breakfast before the “play date.”

Reasons to Reschedule:

(Rescheduling will not be held against you.)



- If your child has been ill all week, reschedule.
- If your child has a bad morning, reschedule.
- If your child did not eat breakfast, reschedule.
- If you are rushed and running late, reschedule.

KFA Kindergarten Program

Kinderplatz of Fine Arts offers a kindergarten experience for those children who need the gift of one more year in a caring and nurturing environment. Your child must be age 5 by September 1st to enroll. We follow guidelines of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), which are the state standards for what students should know and be able to do in kindergarten. In addition, we incorporate our fine arts curriculum and nature reserve experiences.

If your child will be going to first grade from our kindergarten you will need to contact the school of your choice to verify admission requirements.

Parent Hindsight Feedback:

- I wish we would have listened to teacher recommendations.
- I wish we would have considered the families and the children with whom we would spend the next 12 years.
- I wish we would have listened to our gut.
- If you have reservations give your child the gift of time; one year can make a big difference.

Food for Thought:

If you put a new born beside a one-year-old, you will see a huge difference. That difference does not appear as recognizable when we put a child who is 5 beside a child who is 5.11, but there is a measurable developmental difference.

A child who is ready for kindergarten is a child who is socially and emotionally ready.