

Preschool Readiness Checklist

Essential Skills for Preschool Success

3-Year Olds

1. Real-World Experiences & Social/Emotional Skills

- Adjusts to new environments (e.g., zoo, ballgames) with adult support
- Interacts kindly with peers (sharing, taking turns)
- Uses simple words to communicate needs and feelings

2. Reading Ritual (Literacy & Engagement)

- Enjoys regular book-reading at home, even in short sessions
- Listens to a brief story with minimal interruption
- Turns pages and looks at pictures independently

3. Independent Play & Minor Challenges

- Spends some time without screens or being entertained constantly
- Tries small tasks (like a simple puzzle) before asking for help
- Follows one- or two-step directions (e.g., picking up toys)

4. Boundaries & Logical Consequences

- Understands that “no” is sometimes necessary and can accept it calmly
- Recognizes that certain actions lead to logical outcomes (e.g., lose a toy if it’s not cleaned up)
- Waits turn and shares in group activities

5. Fine Motor Development

- Holds a crayon or marker with some control
- Enjoys cutting with child-safe scissors, rolling dough, or threading small items
- Builds hand strength through tasks like pinching, squeezing, or molding

6. Self-Sufficiency (Independence Skills)

- Uses the toilet on their own (or is close to it)
- Attempts dressing tasks (zipping a coat, putting on shoes)
- Knows basic personal information (name, age) and can share it when asked
- Manages small tasks like pouring a drink or wiping up a minor spill