



Kindergarten Readiness for Children with Disabilities

How can I help my child prepare for Kindergarten?

Every child's development is different. There is no defined set of skills that a child must have in order to participate in Kindergarten. However, parents and caregivers of young children with disabilities often wonder if their child will be "ready" for Kindergarten and how they can help prepare their child for Kindergarten. To help you start to answer these questions we have compiled a few family-friendly resources on this topic.

For a child with disabilities, being ready for that big step to Kindergarten often requires some additional planning. This one page guide from the PACER Center provides information on what you can work on now to help your child prepare for their transition to Kindergarten. It also includes great tips for working with your child's school team in measuring readiness in important areas such as communication, sharing, paying attention, academics, and social skills. <https://bit.ly/2O11NI3>

Another tool useful for early childhood educators, as well as parents, is a Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist. While there are dozens of checklists available, we find this one useful and easy to use. It can also help track your child's progress over time. One way to use the checklist is to share it with your child's IEP team and talk about your child's emerging skills as well as those they have not mastered yet. Then, work together to develop goals and strategies to help your child improve in those areas. <https://bit.ly/1wzsuDB>

By having good information about your child's skills you can be actively engaged in the development of your child's IEP. Having high expectations and talking often with your child's teachers will help ensure a plan is in place for your child to make meaningful progress toward getting prepared for Kindergarten.

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