

Early Indicators for Successful Kindergartners: Share This with Parents at Spring Registration

*(*From Parents as Partners by Nellie Edge. Adapted to reflect Common Core Standards.)*

Children entering kindergarten demonstrate a variety of learning behaviors. The following behaviors and skills are indicators of kindergarten success:

Oral Language, Reading, Writing

- Says his or her first and last names
- Follows simple instructions
- Shares thoughts and opinions
- Answers simple questions
- Listens to stories read each day
- Recites many nursery rhymes
- Sings simple songs (*Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*)
- Retells a familiar event or story
- Participates in word play (*Donnie, Bonny, Lonny...*)
- Identifies primary colors
- Discusses a favorite story
- Talks about pictures
- Pretends to "read" a book
- Identifies some or all of the letters in the alphabet; says corresponding sound
- Writes name with correct capital and lower case letters
- Attempts writing by using scribbling, print-like marks, strings of letters or words

Mathematics

- Identifies some shapes
- Matches objects (socks, shoes, mittens, gloves)
- Notices similarities and differences
- Sorts and classifies objects
- Uses math language (bigger, smaller, tallest, shortest)
- Plays counting games
- Counts to 20 and beyond

- Touches or points at objects when counting
- Arranges objects by size from tallest to shortest

Social and Emotional

- Makes choices
- Takes turns
- Uses self-help skills (dressing, toileting, eating)
- Shares with others
- Uses self-control
- *Helps with chores at home
- Begins to demonstrate independence
- Finishes new tasks
- Begins to show self-confidence
- Tries new things
- Expresses thoughts and feelings

Physical

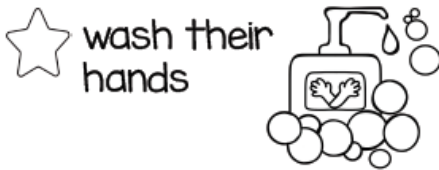
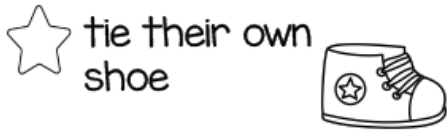
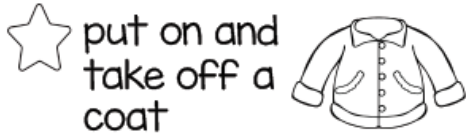
- Hops, jumps, gallops, runs, leaps, climbs, balances
- Throws and catches a ball
- Alternates feet when walking up steps
- Buttons and zips
- Ties shoes
- Assembles puzzles
- Uses crayons
- Demonstrates good pencil grip

***Parents as Partners**

One of the important things you can do to promote school success is to **help your child to be more and more responsible at home:** Teach your child to pick up toys, set the table, take care of a pet, clean their room, and help with the household chores... N.E.

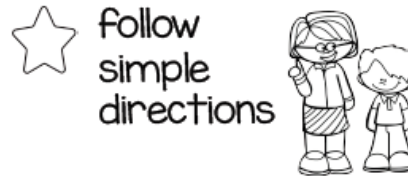
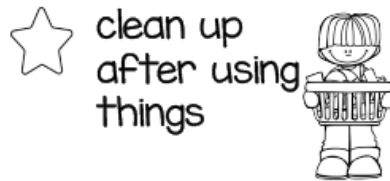
Self Help Skills

It would be helpful if your child can:



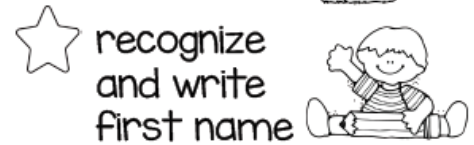
Social Skills

It would be helpful if your child can:

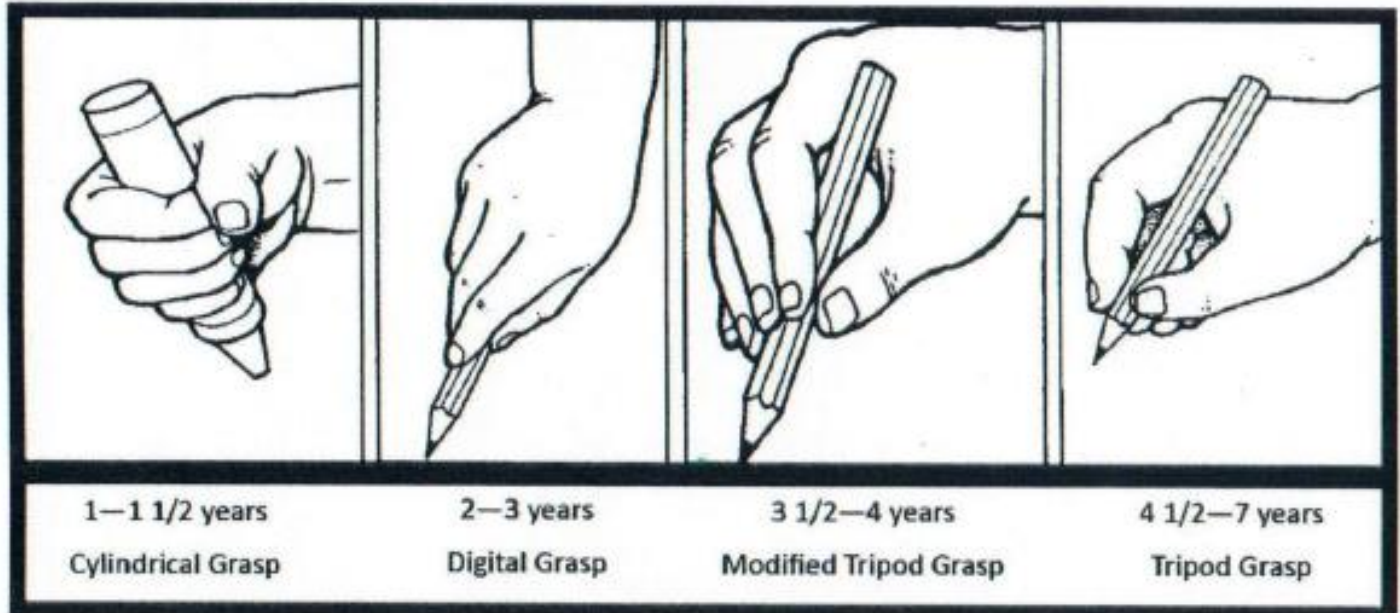


Academic Skills

It would be helpful if your child can:



Developing Small Motor Skills and an Efficient Pencil Grip Are Important Parts of Learning How to Write—and Enjoying the Process!



(This drawing shows typical progression of preschool development of pencil grasp. We were not able to locate its source.)

Dear Parents,

Good handwriting matters, beginning with a good pencil grasp! *If handwriting motions are not efficient, it interferes with the whole process.*

As your child develops a better pencil grasp, **the writing process becomes easier.** It is normal for children to enter kindergarten with a wide range of fine-motor development. **Some children start the year with an efficient pencil grasp,** and others are developing one. This is because children's finger muscles develop with time and experience.

We are asking you to support your child in learning an efficient pencil grasp:

- Teach your child how to hold crayons, draw, and color within lines.
- Then, provide many opportunities to fingerspell, use scissors, tweezers, pencils, pens, and small building toys.
- We want learning this important skill to be a positive experience!

Why is a good pencil grip so important? *So we can write better and faster and so our finger muscles won't get tired.*

Parents as Partners allows us to give your child the life-long habit of efficient handwriting!

With appreciation,