

Morgan Elementary Kindergarten Readiness

Here are some helpful indicators to help you decide if your child is ready for Kindergarten.

READY?

Signs your child is a good candidate for Kindergarten:

- Gets along in a group and is interested in making friends.
- Can choose an activity and stick with it.
 - Can sit and listen to a story.
 - Is comfortable following a routine.
 - Has sufficiently developed fine motor skills so he/she can manipulate a pencil or crayon for drawing.
 - Is interested in looking at books and enjoys being read to.
 - Expresses an interest in learning.
 - Can communicate needs to adults
 - Birthdate: In Texas, children must be age 5 by September 1st to enter Kindergarten.



NOT READY?

Signs your child may benefit by waiting a year before he/she begins Kindergarten:

- Doesn't know how to share or play well with others.
- Lacks impulse control; tends to settle disputes by hitting or biting instead of using words.
- Is excessively anxious about separating from parents.
- Has difficulty sitting still to listen to a story.
- Has a short attention span for projects and activities.
- Is developmentally delayed in an area, such as language or gross or fine motor skills.



In addition to the indicators listed above, it is important that you child can use the restroom independently and is able to verbally state their first and last name.

Summer Tips

Parents frequently ask teachers for activities to do at home prior to the start of Kindergarten. Below are some suggested activities to help prepare your child for Kindergarten. These are ONLY suggestions are not required to be mastered before entering school.

- **Practice motor skills:**
 - Example of gross motor skills: jumping, skipping, running, clapping
 - Example of fine motor skills: cutting with child size scissors, buttoning, writing, playdough, activities, picking up small objects with tweezers or kitchen tongs (ex: cotton balls or paper clips)
 - Some games to enhance fine motor development: Operation, Pick-up Sticks, Ants in the Pants
- **Practice listening skills:**
 - Read a story and have child retell the story including beginning, middle and end. Ask questions such as: What happened first, next, last? Where did the story take place (setting)? Who are the characters? What was the story mostly about?
 - Give directions and have your child follow them the first time given (ex: Simon Says). Also try giving them multi-step directions. (ex: touch your toes, stomp your foot and clap your hands)

- Try to find activities where your child will have an opportunity to sit and listen to a speaker with children about the same age. Encourage your child to be the “best” listener in the group, meaning they give their attention to the speaker and participate if allowed by answering questions, etc. Check the local library for “story” times. Other opportunities may include Mother’s Day Out, Vacation Bible School, Swim Lessons, etc.
- **Practice identifying letters of the alphabet (capital and lowercase) and the sound of the letters**
 - It is important to be done in alphabetical order as well as random order. (Not just memorizing the alphabet song)
 - Use alphabet flash cards or plastic letters and have your child tell you the name and sound of each letter you flash or touch.
 - When driving down the road or shopping in a store look for specific letters. Have your child tell you if it is capital or lowercase.



- **Practice identifying numbers 0-10**
 - Same examples for identifying the alphabet listed above can be used for number identifying as well.
- **Practice your child’s name**
 - Work on writing their name using the appropriate capital and lowercase letters (www.handwritingworksheets.com) Ex: Brian not BRIAN
 - Work on identifying their written name. Create a list of random names, including your child’s and have them show you which one is theirs.
- **Practice rhyming words**
 - Say: “These words rhyme hat, mat, and cat. Can you give me another word that rhymes with hat, mat, cat?”

Helpful Tricks

- **Supplies**
 - The most convenient way to purchase school supplies is through Friends of Morgan (FOM) our wonderful parent and community organization.
 - Over the years we have found that certain brands are easier to use, last longer, and produce better quality work. If you choose to purchase your own supplies below are some suggested brands to consider when shopping but by no means are required.
 - Crayola Crayons and Crayola Markers (classic color and 10 count markers)
 - Fiskars scissors
 - Expo Dry Erase Markers
 - Sharpie brand highlighters
 - Elmers glue (please make sure it is regular school glue and not “No-Run” glue)
 - Backpacks need to be large enough to hold a folder and not have wheels
 - It is not necessary to label individual supplies. Please put all supplies in a large bag labeled with your student’s name on the outside of the bag. If you purchase the package from EPI, the supplies will be in the classroom on “Meet the Teacher” night.