



Starting kindergarten is a big milestone! It's not just about knowing ABCs - it's about social skills, independence, and confidence. Use this checklist to see where your child shines and where they might need a little more practice before the big day.

Social and Emotional Skills

Does your child...

- Separate from parents/caregivers without being overly upset?
- Play cooperatively with other children (sharing toys, taking turns)?
- Follow simple two-step directions (e.g., "Please put on your shoes and go to the door")?
- Pay attention to a story or activity for 5-10 minutes?
- Express feelings with words rather than acting out physically?
- Ask for help when they need it?

Independence & Self-Care

Does your child...

- Use the restroom independently (including wiping and washing hands)?
- Manage their own clothing (zipping coats, buttoning pants, putting on shoes)?
- Open their own lunchbox or snack containers?
- Clean up their own mess or put away toys when asked?

Fine Motor Skills

Does your child...

- Hold a pencil or crayon with a thumb and finger grasp (not a fist)?
- Use scissors to cut along a straight line?
- Trace basic shapes?
- Attempt to write their own first name?

Language & Early Learning

Does your child...

- Speak in complete sentences that strangers can understand?
- Recognize and name some letters of the alphabet (especially in their name)?
- Count to 10 aloud?
- Recognize basic colors?
- Identify rhyming words?

How'd they do?

Mostly checks: Your child is well on their way! They have a strong foundation for the kindergarten classroom.

A few missing checks: Don't worry! These are exactly the skills we practice every day. Children develop at different rates, and a focused preschool environment can bridge these gaps quickly.

Ready to boost your child's confidence? At Lighthouse Day School, our Montessori and Reggio-inspired curriculum is designed specifically to build these independence and social skills!