

Cornwall Central School District



What is a Kindergarten Screening?

Prepared by:

Patricia Fuller MS Ed. Cert. Special Education

Jeannette Shupe MS Ed. CCC- SLP

A kindergarten screening is a way of assessing a child's abilities. It does not measure all the factors necessary which make a child ready for kindergarten. It is not an intelligence test. Rather, this is a way to determine the needs of your child compared to his/her peers. Schools use this information to ensure that your child's needs will be met in kindergarten.

A screening lasts 20-30 minutes and includes a brief overview of the following areas: motor skills, social/emotional skills, speech/language and cognitive skills (how your child understands basic concepts and problem solves). In addition, vision and hearing may be screened by the school nurse at this time.

Our district maintains that all children are different and must be looked at on an individual basis.

EXAMPLES OF SKILLS FOR CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

Motor Skills:

- *Can your child cut with scissors? Can they hold the scissors correctly?
Can he/she cut on a straight line?
- *Can your child trace simple shapes?
- *Does your child button shirts, pants, coats?
- *Can your child zip up zippers?
- *Can your child bounce and catch a ball?
- *Does your child hold a crayon or pencil correctly?
- *Can he/she color a simple shape?

Social/Emotional Skills:

- *Can your child easily separate from parents without being upset?
- *Does your child follow the rules?
- *Does your child respect authority?
- *Are they able to manage their own bathroom needs?
- *Can your child wait their turn and not interrupt when others are speaking?
- *Is he or she able to transition from one activity to another?

Cognitive Skills:

- *Does your child listen to a story without interrupting?
- *Does your child understand actions have both causes and effects?
- *Can your child identify some alphabet letters?
- *Can he/she recognize some common environmental words? (For example: the word “stop” on a stop sign?)
- * Can he/she sort objects by color? size? shape?
- *Can your child recognize groups of one, two, three, four and five objects?
- *Can your child count to 10?
- *Does your child know the concepts “same” and “different?”
- *Does your child show an interest in books, pretending to read and knowing how to care for and hold a book?

*Does your child show a general understanding of the times of day? (For example, the morning or evening routine, when mommy or daddy comes home from work, etc.)

*Can your child pay attention for 10-15 minutes to adult directed tasks?

Speech and Language skills:

*Does your child speak in full sentences containing 5-6 words?

*Does your child speak understandably so that unfamiliar listeners can understand what he/she has said?

*Does your child recognize rhyming sounds?

*Can your child look at pictures and then tell a story?

*Can he/she identify the beginning sounds of some words? (For example "My name is Joey and it starts like the word jellybean.")

*Can your child tell the names of common objects around the house? Animal names? Vehicles? Foods? Items of clothing? Familiar people?

*Does your child remember and retell a sequence of events?

*Can your child identify spatial relationships? (For example: top, bottom, front, back, up, down, etc.)

TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

READ. According to experts, it is the single most important thing a parent can do to encourage learning skills.

PLAY. Encourage imaginative play, make believe and dress up. Through play, children learn concepts and how to interact with peers. They also practice using their large and small muscle groups and learn how to make choices.

HELP with puzzles, drawing and other activities that help develop fine motor skills. Encourage this on a regular basis.

PLAY WITH OTHER CHILDREN. Whether it's through organized play groups or visits to local parks, make sure your child has ample time to socialize. This will help your child learn how to get along with others and let you see how he/she does.

ASK questions about what you've seen and read. "Why did bear go back home?" "Why didn't Sam want to eat the green eggs and ham?"

TALK. Talk to your child. Children learn about language and self expression when they engage in verbal exchanges with others.

PROVIDE concrete learning experiences for children. Take children along with you to the grocery store, post office, library or museum. Letting them experience these places and talking with them about what they are seeing, hearing and touching exposes them to learning.

PROVIDE opportunities for the children to practice independence by allowing them to make certain choices, try new things and encourage problem solving.

CREATE rhymes with your child and make them into silly songs.

TEACH nursery rhymes

PRACTICE name writing with chalk, markers, glitter crayons, finger paints or anything that's fun.

COOK. Pick out simple recipes and have your child help you out in the kitchen by measuring and mixing. Talk about textures, tastes and smells.

SORT. Encourage your child to sort things; separating all the freezer bound groceries, putting socks together while doing laundry or sorting M&M's into piles of colors.

PLAY games that involve counting, Candy Land, Memory.

IMPROVE fine motor skills by providing your child with an art box full of markers, crayons, and scissors. Roll and mold clay into different shapes or string beads/cereal to make "jewelry".

TEACH your child how to listen. Look into other's eyes and wait to speak until the other person has finished. The best way to do this is by example, so be a good and attentive listener at all times.

ESTABLISH a daily routine well before school starts so that your child won't be overloaded with new things to adjust to.

CHORES. Give your child a list of chores outlining their responsibilities and let them check off a box or put on a sticker when he/she has completed a task.

PHOTOGRAPHS. Take pictures of family outings (to the zoo, park beach, etc.) or of family gatherings (birthdays, holidays, etc.) and use these pictures to put together a simple photo album. (Only put 2 or 3 pictures per page.) Look at the photos together and discuss objects, people, etc. Use this as a tool for re-telling what occurred during these events.

REFERENCES

www.iamforkids.org

www.googobits.com

www.school.familyeducation.com

NOTES/QUESTIONS: