

How Parents Can Help Their Kindergartners Learn to Read

Checklist for Parents of Kindergartners

These skills usually develop when a child is in kindergarten. Talk with your child's teacher if you have questions.

- My child listens carefully to books read aloud.
- My child knows the shapes and names for the letters of the alphabet and writes many uppercase and lowercase letters on his own.
- My child knows that spoken words are made of separate sounds.
- My child recognizes and makes rhymes can tell when words begin with the same sound, and can put together, or blend, spoken sounds.
- My child can sound out some letters.
- My child knows that the order of letters in a written word stands for the order of sounds in a spoken word.
- My child knows some common words such as **a, the, I,** and **you**, on sight.
- My child knows how to hold a book, and follows print from left to right and from top to bottom of a page when she is read to.
- My child asks and answers questions about stories and uses what she already knows to understand a story.
- My child knows the parts of a book and understands that authors write words and text and illustrators create pictures.
- My child knows that in most books the main message is in the print, not the pictures.
- My child predicts what will happen in a story and retells or acts out stories.
- My child knows the difference between “made up” fiction and “real” nonfiction books and the difference between stories and poems.
- My child uses what he/she knows about letters and sounds to write words.
- My child writes some letters and words as they are said to her/him and begins to spell some words correctly.
- My child writes his/her own first and last name and the first names of some friends and family.
- My child plays with words that are important to school work, such as the names for colors, shapes, and numbers.
- My child knows and uses words from daily life, such as street names and the names for community workers – teacher, mail carrier, etc.

This checklist is adapted from *A Child Becomes a Reader – Birth through Preschool*.