

Preparing for Kindergarten Success in South Carolina:
Characteristics of the Ready Learner

Approaches to Learning and Inquiry

- Demonstrates eagerness to learn.
- Shows curiosity through questioning.
- Shows creativity and imagination.
- Engages in daily opportunities for play and exploration.
- Shows willingness to try new things.
- Persists in tasks that are challenging.
- Maintains attention.
- Applies learning to new situations.
- Solves problems with materials at hand.
- Use senses and observations to learn about the surrounding world.

Emotional and Social Development

- Works and plays cooperatively with others.
- Expresses emotions through appropriate actions and words.
- Follows simple rules/directions.
- Adjusts to changes in routine and environment.
- Shows self-control.
- Shows caring and understanding of other's feelings.
- Takes turns.
- Shares toys and equipment with others.
- Interacts with familiar adults.
- Respects the property of others.
- Resolves conflicts using words and adult support.
- Makes Friends.

Physical Development, Self-Help and Motor Skills

- Moves with control and balance while walking, running, jumping, climbing.
- Uses fingers to manipulate small objects, such as pencils/crayons, scissors, buttons, zippers.
- Uses hand-eye coordination to perform simple tasks, like putting together a puzzle.
- Independently performs self-help tasks such as toileting, hand washing, tooth brushing, and dressing.

Language and Literacy Development

Listening, Speaking and Understanding

- Converses with others, taking turns speaking and listening.
- Speaks clearly, expressing ideas and questions.
- Uses words to seek help, answer questions and solve problems
- Speaks in complete sentences of at least six to eight words.
- Listens to stories and retells them.
- Begins to ask questions about events in texts that are read aloud.
- Follows directions and completes tasks that require multiple steps.
- Asks and answers "how" and "why" questions.

Early Reading

- Shows interest in books and reading.
- Explores books independently.

- Knows that printed words have meaning.
- Uses pictures in a text to tell and retell the story.
- Recognizes and reads familiar signs and logos.
- Maintains attention on story being read aloud.
- Makes predictions about what will happen next in a story being read aloud.
- Identifies the front and back of a book.
- Begins to follow text from left to right as it is read aloud.
- Recognizes and names rhyming words.
- Recognizes that letters represent spoken sounds.
- Recognizes some upper and lower case letters and their sounds.
- Recognizes that spoken words can be represented in written language.
- Recognizes written name as well as other familiar words.
- Begins to use pictures and text read aloud to learn the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Early Writing

- Draws pictures and tells their story.
- Writes using a combination of drawing, letters, scribbles, letter-like shapes and/or symbols to tell a story.
- Uses writing during play to create signs, lists, etc.
- Writes name independently or using a model.

Mathematical Thinking

Number Sense

- Counts orally to 20.
- Counts up to 10 objects.
- Matches numbers to groups of up to five objects
- Compares sets of objects (more than or less than) and describes quantity size (big and small), length (long and short) and weight (light and heavy).
- Identifies first through third in a line of objects.

Matching, Sorting, Classifying

- Creates simple repeating patterns.
- Describes positions of objects by using the terms, *above and below*.
- Recognizes and draws basic shapes (circle, square and triangle).
- Sorts and classifies up to 10 objects into categories.

Characteristics of Ready Families and Caregivers

- Provide safe and loving home environments in which children can grow and develop optimally.
- Ensure that their children's pediatric health and dental needs are regularly addressed.
- Create "language rich" homes in which conversation and written literacy are modeled daily.
- Ensure that their young children receive adequate rest and a healthy diet.
- Expose young children to regular and varied learning experiences in and out of the home.

Characteristics of Ready Schools and Educators

- Understand that each child develops on a unique timeline.
- Prepared to meet the unique, individual needs of all students.
- Highly knowledgeable in both child development and the progression of early learning.
- Provide the social, emotional and academic supports needed to advance their students abilities.
- Create emotionally safe and nurturing environments that are free of stress.
- Equipped to support the needs of their students' parents and caregivers.

Characteristics of Ready Communities

- Provide access to the resources necessary to ensure good health and optimal physical, social/emotional and cognitive development.
- Create environments in which children:
 - Can grow and develop in the absence of fear, stress, danger and hunger.
 - Have access to needed pediatric, dental and mental health resources.
 - Spend their days in nurturing, language-rich, and developmentally supportive environments (whether a loving home, a high-quality early education setting or both).
 - Are cared for by loving adults attentive to their physical, emotional and developmental needs.

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