

# School Readiness

Is My Child Ready for School?



How Can I Prepare  
My Child for School?



## SCHOOL READINESS

**Most parents are anxious to see if their little ones are ready to enter school. A wise parent considers carefully this first step into education.**

### School Readiness Defined

School readiness encompasses several key factors. Indicators of school readiness embody family and community support, children's daily living skills, behavioral adjustment, language and cognitive skills, and a school's preparedness for children (Boyle and Benner 200-202; Brown and Lan 404-405; Levy, *Nurturing*).



### Developmental Readiness

Developmental readiness is a key component to school success. When children are over-placed, they are set to fail. Experience can enhance and support development, but it cannot speed up a child's overall rate of growth. Each child is unique and develops at varied rates (Boyle and Benner 200-202; Brown and Lan 404-405; Levy, *Nurturing*). Even if a child is able to produce the necessary skills on an entrance test, this does not assure readiness or in other words, academic achievement does not necessarily equal success in school.

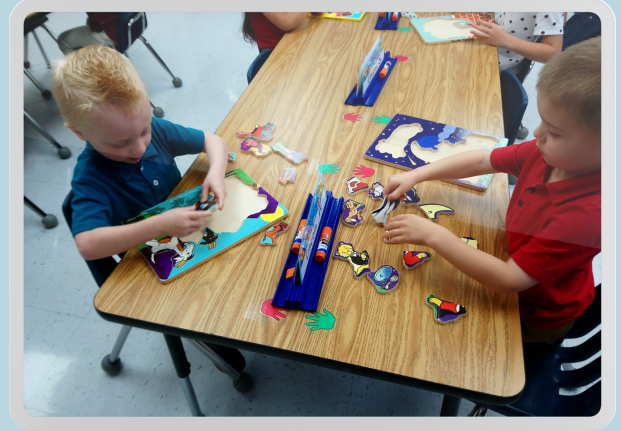
Brain research indicates that learning and maturation cannot be separated (Pekdogan et al. 144-146). Effective learning occurs when a child possesses the underlying biological readiness, the individual interest, and the opportunity to learn in a developmentally appropriate setting (Boyle and Penner 199-226; Levy, *Nurturing*). Children should progress through school based upon an individual, developmental rate of growth; rather than chronological age, intellectual potential, or academic skill.

**"Each child is uniquely created  
in the image of God."**

Each child is uniquely created in the image of God. Christian Heritage Academy desires to place each child in the best setting to cultivate maximum educational success and personal growth. If children are developmentally young, they need the gift of time (Boyle and Benner 199-207; Levy, *Nurturing*).

# EMERGING

The following activities should be natural aspects of children's play. Reading to your children, visiting children's museums and parks, as well as allowing them to explore and solve problems independent of others augment school readiness (Boyle and Benner 202-204; Levy, *Nurturing*; Pekdogan et al. 144-146 ).



## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

## KINDERGARTEN

### Fine-Motor

- Complete puzzles
- Count objects to match numbers 1-10
- Match upper and lower case letters
- Count objects using one-to-one correspondence
- Practice handwriting strokes using correct pencil grip (pincer grip) - just strokes, do not force writing letters
  - Strokes
    - Left to right (horizontal)
    - Top to bottom (vertical)
    - Slant left, slant right
    - Circle left, circle right

### Fine-Motor

- Match shapes to shapes, with varying sizes
- Recall series of number sets orally,
  - Example: 268, 491, 4680
- Practice cutting with Fiskar scissors
- Use tweezers with a pincer grip (thumb and index finger) moving beans or small object into a bottle

## STAGES

## Pre-Writing, Mathematical, and Critical Thinking Stages

The examples contained in the link below should not become worksheets that you assign (Gartrell, *Readiness*; Levy, *Nurturing*). Children will encounter these strokes and patterns as they "read" books to you and with you, as they color, as they draw their own pictures, and as they experiment with everyday objects (Gartrell, *Readiness*; Levy, *Nurturing*; Prewriting examples see web address in resources; [www.KidsMasterSkills.com](http://www.KidsMasterSkills.com))

**"Reading is actually much more entertaining than the electronic media because you have to use your imagination to create the scenery, and you can create it the way you want, and it's really a lot more fun." Dr. Ben Carson**



## School Readiness

**"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."**  
**Fred Rogers**



## Sources

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