

Start Kindergarten or Not?

Signs of Readiness

The Gesell Institute of Child Development in New Haven, Connecticut is recognized worldwide for its authoritative works on the development and behavior of children. Below is a checklist offered by The Gesell Institute to help parents determine if their child is ready for kindergarten.

1. Is the child comfortable away from parents?
2. Can the child express ideas and feelings on his/her own?
3. Hang up sweaters and jackets without help?
4. Take care of personal belongings such as his/her own backpack and lunchbox?
5. Knows the parts of the body?
6. Listen to a story and retell it?
7. Enter new activities without fear?
8. Accept minor disappointments without tears?
9. Listen to and follow directions?
10. Finds ways to resolve problems with peers independently?
11. Work Independently?
12. Join a group of children and listen to a story while sitting relatively still?
13. Give full name and age?
14. Make a decision given a choice of play activities?
15. Use pencil and crayons in a relaxed posture?
16. Draw recognizable drawings?
17. Share toys and take turns in play time?
18. Remember and follow school and classroom rules?

According to The Gesell Institute, children should exhibit 16 of these 18 signs of readiness to be considered ready for Kindergarten.