

# Great Start Priority: School Readiness

Preparing your child to succeed in school is a big job. Great Start is here to support you in your role as your child's first and best teacher because we know that a child who enters school ready to learn is much more likely to do well in school, graduate high school and be a successful adult. So how do you know if your child is ready for school?

Here are a few examples of behaviors and abilities that are typical for children ages 4 & 5:

## Social and Emotional Development

- ◆ Cooperates well with others, makes friends, shares toys.
- ◆ Expresses feelings, calms themselves, shows patience, recognizes the feelings of others.
- ◆ Beginning to respect the space of those around them.
- ◆ Likes to talk and carry on conversations.
- ◆ Beginning to understand that their actions have consequences.



*High quality early learning experiences help prepare young children for a successful future.*

## Physical Well-being and Motor Development

- ◆ Likes to gallop, run, skip, hop, swing and climb. Can hop on one foot and walk in a straight line.
- ◆ Uses eating utensils skillfully. Can hold a pencil, crayon or marker to draw and write.
- ◆ Able to build with blocks, form shapes out of clay or play dough, can thread beads on a string.
- ◆ Able to feed themselves, brush their teeth, comb hair, and dress themselves with little help.

## Cognitive and General Knowledge

- ◆ Asks questions and solves problems on their own.
- ◆ Able to recognize several letters, may be able to write their name.
- ◆ Beginning to understand that letters make words and words make sentences.
- ◆ Uses different writing tools, pencils, crayons, etc. and enjoys drawing and writing.
- ◆ Recognizes stop signs, store signs and other print they are exposed to frequently.

## Speaking and Communication

- ◆ Able to use their words to express needs and opinions in everyday communication and conflict with others.
- ◆ Can have a conversation, make up stories, using a range of vocabulary.
- ◆ Asks and answers who, what, where and when questions.
- ◆ Gaining confidence in starting conversation and responding when talking with peers and adults.

## Approaches to Learning

- ◆ Takes initiative and is curious and willing to try new things.
- ◆ Understands and obeys simple rules (most of the time).
- ◆ Understands the order of daily routines such as breakfast before lunch, lunch before dinner, etc.
- ◆ Able to follow 3 step directions such as put your cup in the sink, put the ball in your room and get your coat on.

The purpose of Great Start is to assure a coordinated system of community resources and supports to help all Jackson County families provide a Great Start for their children from birth to age five.



Visit: [www.greatstartjackson.org](http://www.greatstartjackson.org) for more information on school readiness