



Before children go to kindergarten, they do not necessarily need to know how to read or to count. However, there are some things that they should know:

- their name, address, and telephone number
- the name of their school
- the name and place where their parents work
- the letters of the alphabet and numbers (or be familiar with them)
- that some behaviors like hitting and biting are not allowed
- how to take turns or share toys
- how to get to school either by walking or driving
- how to look both ways before crossing streets
- how to approach a safe adult in case of emergency
- how to wash their hands after using a restroom or eating
- how to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- how to dress by themselves
- how to tie their shoes
- how to play with other children the same age
- how to use crayons, markers, scissors, and paste
- how to listen and follow rules and directions
- how to put things away

Minnesota state law says that before a child starts kindergarten, he or she must be screened for health and school readiness. Most school districts offer early childhood screening. The screening will help you decide if your child is ready to start school. The people who do the screening can tell you about programs in your area to help your child become ready for kindergarten. For example, some school districts run programs for children who are going into kindergarten but have not attended preschool. These programs are usually offered the year or summer before the child is expected to start kindergarten.