

GKIDS READINESS PARENT RESOURCES: FOUNDATIONS OF SUCCESS



This area of learning includes student's approaches to learning, social and emotional development, and physical development and motor skills. These attributes and skills, while often viewed as non-academic are leading indicators of students' progression towards future academic success. To help support your child with the skills assessed in the GKIDS Readiness Check, watch the [overview video](#) and learn more about each skill by clicking on the skill in the section below.

DEMONSTRATES INDEPENDENCE

- **Try, Try Again:** Allow your child many attempts to perform a skill before intervening (e.g., tying his shoes, building a structure with blocks, putting together a puzzle).
- **Taking the Lead:** Encourage your child to take the lead in activities associated with daily routines, such as setting the table for dinner, picking out clothes for school, feeding a pet, or brushing teeth.
- **Book Project:** Create a book for your child by stapling several pieces of paper together. Encourage your child to work on the book daily for several days. Discuss ideas for the story together.
- **Setting Goals:** To help your child with this skill, provide tasks that are achievable, offer encouragement, and try to limit distractions. Set a goal for your child to continue on task one minute for each year of age. For example, a five-year-old would aim for approximately 5 minutes of independent work.

FOLLOWS RULES AND ROUTINES

- **Simple Games:** Play simple games like "Simon Says," "Duck, Duck, Goose," and "Red Light, Green Light."
- **Games with Rules:** Play board games that involve simple sets of rules.
- **Nighttime Routine:** Talk about your child's nighttime routine, such as reading a book, taking a bath, setting out her clothes, and making sure her backpack is ready for school the next day.
- **Put It Away:** Show your child where you would like them to store their toys when finished playing. Establish a routine of putting toys away when he is finished playing. This might include specific shelves or baskets to hold certain toys.
- **Reading Time:** Read books about rules and routines.
- **Create a Routine:** Ask your child to help with formulating a list of your routine for the next day.

PLAYS WITH PEERS

- **Games with Friends:** Play games such as "Duck, Duck, Goose" or "Musical Chairs."
- **Puzzle It Out:** Collaborate to put together a puzzle.
- **Cooking Together:** Prepare a recipe together and negotiate who adds the ingredients, cracks the egg, stirs the cake mixture, and cleans up the work area.
- **Getting Outside:** Play organized outdoor games like tag or kickball.
- **Keep It in the Air:** Have your child and a friend work together to keep a balloon or a beach ball from hitting the ground. Invite family members or other friends to join in the fun.
- **Taking Turns:** Play games that involve turn taking with a small group of children.

USES SENSES

- **Same or Different:** Ask questions about how a group of objects, toys, or materials are the same or different.
- **Sun Patterns:** Track when the sun rises or sets over a period of time, and talk about the patterns that you observe.

USES SENSES continued...

- **Fun with New Foods:** Try new foods with your child and ask him to classify if the foods are salty, sweet, sour, or bitter.
- **Sensory Nature Walk:** Go on a nature walk and ask your child to describe what he sees.
- **Group Play:** Ask your child to organize a play activity that the two of you will play together.
- **Sensory Books:** Read books about the environment and ask your child questions about her senses, such as what she sees or what she thinks an object might feel like.

SOLVES PROBLEMS

- **Let's Explain:** Ask your child to explain how she would solve a puzzle or build a structure with a younger sibling or friend.
- **Simple Science Experiments:** Engage in simple science experiments like mixing paint colors, dyeing eggs, and building structures. Ask your child to predict what might happen next.
- **20 Questions:** Play 20 questions with your child. Select a person, place, or thing and have him guess in 20 questions or less.
- **Who, What, Why:** Ask questions of your child such as: "What steps should we take to ___?" "What do you think we should do next?" or "Tell me your plan to ___."
- **Guess What:** Play guessing games by asking your child to identify an object based on its purpose or action.
- **Questions in Play:** Play board games or engage in outdoor games that encourage your child to ask questions.

COMMUNICATES NEEDS AND THOUGHTS

- **Reading and Watching Interactively:** Encourage conversations about what your child might have just seen on television or read about in a book.
- **What Do You Think:** Ask for your child's opinion. You could say, "Did you like that book or movie?" or "I wonder what the character in this book is thinking."
- **Express Yourself:** Ask your child to express his feelings or needs when upset.
- **Full Engagement:** Engage fully in activities with your child and respond to her actions and statements.
- **Read it again:** Read the same book many times and ask different questions about the content. "What do you think would have happened if ___?"
- **Get chatty:** Talk with your child often and respond to his statements and questions.
- **Replace the Word:** Encourage your child to expand her vocabulary by exchanging a more common word for its synonym. For example, "big" can be replaced with words like large, gigantic, tremendous, huge, or mountainous.

USES FINE MOTOR SKILLS

- **Writing Practice:** Help your child practice writing by assisting her with name, address, and phone number.
- **Thank You Notes:** Write thank you notes to friends or relatives.
- **Fun with Paint:** Paint pictures with a small brush.
- **Type Time:** Recite a web address for your child to type into a computer or tablet.
- **Build a Structure:** Build with small blocks or Legos®.
- **Finger Plays:** Sing songs with accompanying finger plays.
- **Small-Muscle Play:** Engage in small-muscle manipulative activities, such as threading yarn through beads or weaving it around cardboard, placing shoelaces into shoe holes, inserting shapes into a shape sorter, or piecing together puzzles.
- **Cut It Out:** Cut out pictures with scissors and make a collage.
- **Strengthening Fingers:** String beads on a lace, or place pegs in a board.