

Starting School Ready to Succeed

At the Centennial School District we want all children to be successful and enjoy school when they start kindergarten. Kindergarten Readiness is a term that is often used when talking about entering kindergarten. We'd like to help you answer the question, "Is my child ready for kindergarten?" by providing the indicators listed below. If you have questions about your child's readiness, observe him/her over the next few months, watching for some of the behaviors listed. If you have concerns or questions about your child or kindergarten, please feel free to contact the principal (Blue Heron Elementary 763-792-6200, Centennial Elementary 763-792-5300, Centerville Elementary 763-792-5800, Golden Lake Elementary 763-792-5900, Rice Lake Elementary 763-792-5700) at your child's elementary school.

Social Behavior:

- Participates in group activities
- Interacts easily with a familiar adult
- Keeps hands and feet to self
- Moves through routines and transitions smoothly
- Plays or works cooperatively with peers
- Takes turns

Reading / Writing / Math:

- Begins to recognize letters and sounds
- Counts objects to 5
- Counts to 10 or higher
- Identifies colors and shapes
- Prints name (uses lower case letters)
- Has experience with writing tools (pencils, crayons, etc.)

Listening and Speaking:

- Uses words to communicate needs and wants
- Listens to stories for 5-10 minutes without restlessness
- Follows two-step directions
- Recalls stories and events

Fine / Gross Motor:

- Cuts on line or patterns
- Can run, jump, hop, and march

Self-Help Skills:

- Takes care of bathroom needs independently
- Organizes his/her belongings
- Shows progress toward tying shoes, zipping, buttoning, etc.

How to develop and encourage many of these behaviors:

- **Read 2 books a day to your child**
- **Provide experience with purposeful writing such as grocery lists, notes to relatives, emails**
- **Involve him/her in experiences playing and learning with other children their own age (playground, preschool, Early Childhood Family Education classes 763-792-6120)**