Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

It is intended for four and five year olds. The criteria on the checklist should not be applied to children three years old or younger.

Child's Name:  

Criteria:  

Letters and Words:  

- Recognizes and names at least 10 letters of the alphabet  
- Matches a letter with the beginning sound of a word: for example, matches the letter "B" with a picture of a banana  
- Recognizes rhyming words such as cat and hat  
- Recognizes letters in his or her own first name  
- Begins to write some of the letters in his or her own first name  
- Recognizes his or her own first name in print  
- Understands words such as "up" and "bottom" and "big" and "little"  
- Recognizes words or signs he or she sees often, for example: McDonald’s, Wal-Mart or stop signs and exit signs  
- Begins to draw pictures in response to stimuli and tells stories  
- Recognizes and names at least five colors  

Speaking:  

- Shares and talks about their own experiences in a way that can be understood by most listeners  
- Follows directions with at least two steps, for example: "Pick up the blocks and put them on the shelf, please."  
- Interacts and joins in conversations with adults and children  
- Asks questions about how things work in the world around him, for example: "Why does baby cry?"  
- Says and/or sings familiar nursery rhymes  
- Knows simple questions: who, what, when, where, when?  

Books:  

- Holds and looks at books correctly: for example, holds the book right side up and turns the pages one at a time from front to back  
- Tells a story from the picture on the cover or in the book  
- Retells a simple story such as The Three LIttle Pigs after listening to it  
- Makes simple predictions and comments about a story being read  
- Shows growing interest in reading and being read to  

Numbers and Shapes:  

- Counts out loud from 1 to 10 in correct order  
- Identifies written numbers from one to ten  
- Puts together number puzzles in order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10  
- Counts at least 5 objects such as 5 bananas and 5 cookies  
- Sees the numeral 3 and understands this means 3 objects, such as 3 cookies  
- Recognizes and names common shapes: circle, square, rectangle and triangle  
- Sees the numeral 3 and understands this means 3 objects, such as 3 cookies  
- Counts at least 5 objects such as 5 bananas and 5 cookies  
- Sees the numeral 3 and understands this means 3 objects, such as 3 cookies  
- Recognizes and names common shapes: circle, square, rectangle and triangle  
- Sees the numeral 3 and understands this means 3 objects, such as 3 cookies  
- Recognizes and names common shapes: circle, square, rectangle and triangle  
- Sees the numeral 3 and understands this means 3 objects, such as 3 cookies  
- Follows a set routine and schedule for preparing for bed, personal hygiene and eating meals  
- Shows growing interest in reading and being read to  

Same, Different and Patterns:  

- Matches two pictures that are alike  
- Looks at groups of objects and says which are the same shape, color or size  
- Tells things that go together, for example: a spoon and fork; and for eating and a fish and a boat go in the water  
- Tells a pattern you start, for example: step, stop, step, stop, step, stop, jump  
- Puts three pictures in order, for example: 1. Planting flower seeds 2. Flowers growing 3. Picking flowers  

Growing Up:  

- Tells full name, address and telephone number  
- Tells how he or she is a boy or a girl  
- Tells how old he or she is  
- Takes care of own needs such as toileting, washing hands, dressing and trying to tie his or her own shoes  
- Makes simple predictions and comments about a story being read  
- Shows growing interest in reading and being read to  

Health & Safety:  

- Follows a test routine and schedule for preparing for bed, personal hygiene and eating meals  
- Shows growing interest in reading and being read to  
- Uses good habits, for example: uses a spoon to eat, closed mouth when chewing, covers nose and mouth to sneeze and washes hands after using the toilet and before eating  
- Uses good habits, for example: uses a spoon to eat, closed mouth when chewing, covers nose and mouth to sneeze and washes hands after using the toilet and before eating  
- Is aware of and follows simple safety rules  
- Visits the doctor and dentists regularly  
- Recognizes potentially dangerous or harmful objects, substances, situations and activities  
- Asks for help when needed  
- Participates in vigorous physical activity daily  

Remember that play is an important part of learning. Your child learns best when he or she is spending time with you and doing activities which are interesting and fun!