# What Kindergarteners Need to Know to Succeed

We asked more than 100 teachers what children need to know on the first day of kindergarten: Here are 20 skills that help them get off to a good start:

#### **SOCIAL SKILLS**

- Express feelings or wants verbally—that is, use words rather than hitting another child.
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic conversational rules, such as taking turns talking without interrupting.
- Speak clearly and in full sentences, both one-to-one with an adult and in class discussions.
- Share and take turns when playing with other children and use good manners—saying please and thank you, for example.
- Follow class routines with only occasional reminders.

## **READING. WRITING & LISTENING**

- Enjoy looking at books and imitate reading behaviors such as turning pages one by one.
- Recognize most of the letters of the alphabet by sight, both upper and lower case.
- Can hold a pencil using the correct grip.
- Can write first name using capital and lower case letters; can form letters from the top down.
- Can sit still long enough to listen to a story.

#### **EVERYDAY SKILLS**

- Use the bathroom by themselves and wash their hands.
- Take their coats off and hang them up; and put their coats on, including fasteners (zippers, buttons).
- Know and respond to their proper names, rather than just nicknames.
- Have self-help skills, such as opening their own snacks.
- Use scissors, pencils and crayons.
- Understand two or three-step instructions—e.g., "Get your jackets, put them on, and then get into line."

#### **NUMBERS AND COLORS**

- Identify and describe squares, circles, triangles and rectangles.
- Name common colors.
- Recognize one-digit numerals and count up to ten objects.
- Sort common objects into groups—e.g., they can "put all the cars together."

THE KINDERGARTEN SKILLS SURVEY included more than 100 kindergarten teachers and was conducted in the spring of 2014. The teachers came from the following ten school districts: Amityville, Franklin Square, Harborfields, Levittown, Long Beach, Middle Country, North Merrick, Valley Stream #13, Uniondale and Wyandanch. Some survey questions were based on an earlier survey of teachers in Westbury done by The Early Years Institute.

THE LONG ISLAND PRE-K INITIATIVE is a grant-funded project that seeks to strengthen relationships between school districts and community-based organizations and to share information about research, policy and best practices for early learning.

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# Que Necesitan Saber los Estudiantes de Jardín de Infantes para tener Éxito

Preguntamos a mas de 100 profesores que necesitan saber los niños en su primer día de jardín de infants. Aquí están 20 habilidades que les ayudara a tener un buen comienzo:

# **HABILIDADES SOCIALES**

- Expresar sentimientos o deseos verbalmente, es decir, el uso de palabras en lugar de golpear a otro niño.
- Demostrar conocimiento de las reglas básicas de conversación: como tomar turnos para hablar, no interrumpir.
- Hablar con claridad y en oraciones completas, tanto uno-a-uno con adultos y en discusiones en clase.
- Compartir y tomar turnos al jugar con otros niños y el uso de buenas costumbres, por ejemplo: decir por favor y gracias.
- Seguir rutinas de clase con sólo recordatorios ocasionales.

# **LECTURA, ESCRITURA Y PRESTAR ATENCION**

- Disfrutar al mirar libros e imitar comportamientos de lectura tales como pasar las páginas una por una.
- Reconocer la mayoría de letras del alfabeto, tanto mayúsculas como minúsculas.
- Poder sostener un lápiz apretándolo correctamente.
- Poder escribir su primer nombre con letras mayúsculas y minúsculas; poder formar letras de arriba hacia abajo.
- Poder mantenerse quieto el tiempo para suficiente escuchar un cuento.

# **HABILIDADES DIARIAS**

- Usar el baño y lavarse las manos por sí mismo.
- Poder sacarse y ponerse su abrigo; incluyendo abrocharlo, (cremalleras, botones).
- Conocer y responder a su primer nombre, en lugar de apodos.
- Poder abrir sus propios bocadillos/aperitivos
- Utilizar tijeras, lápices y crayones.
- Entender instrucciones simples, por ejemplo, "¡Recoja su abrigo, póngaselo, y luego colóquese en la línea."

## **NUMEROS Y COLORES**

- Identificar y describir cuadrados, círculos, triángulos y rectángulos.
- Nombrar colores básicos.
- Reconocer números con un dígito y contar hasta diez.
- Ordenar objetos simples en grupos, por ejemplo, pueden "poner todos los carros juntos."

LA ENCUESTA DE HABILIDADES DE KINDER incluyó a más de 100 maestros de jardín de infantes y se llevó a cabo en la primavera del 2014. Los maestros entrevistados son de los siguientes diez distritos escolares: Amityville, Franklin Square, Harborfields, Levittown, Long Beach, Middle Country, North Merrick, Valley Stream # 13, Uniondale y Wyandanch. Algunas preguntas de la encuesta se basaron en una encuesta anterior de los profesores en Westbury realizada por "The Early Years Institute".

LA INICIATIVA DE LONG ISLAND PRE-K es un proyecto financiado por una beca que busca fortalecer las relaciones entre los distritos escolares y organizaciones basadas en la comunidad y compartir información acerca de la investigación, política y las mejores prácticas para el aprendizaje a temprana edad.

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