

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist
Hounsfield Heights – Briar Hill Community Kindergarten

The goal of Kindergarten is to help children acquire the skills and confidence they need to be successful in Grade One and throughout their life. The focus of instruction in our Kindergarten is on four interrelated and interactive aspects of learning: social, academic, physical and creative development.

While much is learned in Kindergarten, children succeed *when they enter* kindergarten with these skills:

- Recognises his/her name
- Knows his/her name (Is this different than the point above?)
- Expresses feelings and needs
- Talks in sentences of 4-5 words or more
- Uses words instead of being physical when angry
- Speaks clearly so an unfamiliar adult can understand him/her
- Can spend extended periods away from parents
- Plays with other children
- Can wait his/her turn; can share
- Asks questions about things around him/her
- Goes to the bathroom by self
- Can dress self (button, snap, zip, put on coat)
- Can pay attention for short periods of time to adult –directed tasks
- Counts from 1 – 10
- Tries to write his/her name
- Holds a pencil correctly
- Uses stairs appropriately

If your child struggles with 3 – 5 of these skills, he or she will most likely be able to acquire them in kindergarten as the year progresses.

If your child is struggling with 9 or more of these skills, you may want to consider:

1. Talking to your child's playschool teacher or day care worker about your child's readiness for kindergarten.
2. Waiting a year for your child to develop the necessary skills. This is especially true of children with October to March birthdays. Much research attests to the value of waiting with younger children. Anecdotal evidence suggests delaying kindergarten for one year benefits the child through greater success in elementary school and with their emotional development as a pre-teen. At 12 or 13, being 8 – 12 months younger than your classmates can be very stressful.
3. Talking to the Kindergarten teacher about your concerns for the success of your child.