



Kindergarten Readiness for Children with Disabilities

Will my child be ready for kindergarten?

Parents and caregivers ask themselves this important question, especially those with young children with disabilities. We compiled a few resources that address this topic.

For a child with disabilities, being ready for that big step to kindergarten often requires some additional planning. This one page Information guide from the PACER Center provides information on how to work with your child's school team to look at important areas such as communication, sharing, and paying attention to gauge how ready your child is, and more importantly, what can be worked on now to help them prepare for their transition to kindergarten. <https://bit.ly/3Ai0tEs> and <https://www.pacer.org/ec/>

Another tool useful for early childhood educators, as well as parents, is a Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist. Dozens of checklists exist, but this one is easy to use and can help track your child's progress over time. Use the checklist as a guide to talk with your child's IEP team about any skills that your child is struggling with to see how they can be addressed. <https://bit.ly/1wzsuDB>

Remember that every child's skills and development are different and that there is no "defined" set of ability that a child must have in order to "be ready" for kindergarten. Readiness includes expectations in the areas of physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and academic. By having good information about your child's skills you can be actively engaged in the development of your child's IEP which ensures it is designed to help your child make meaningful progress toward getting ready for kindergarten.

For more information on kindergarten readiness contact a TNSTEP team member.

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