



# Kindergarten Readiness Checklist



## Language and Early Literacy Skills

- ☐ Recognizes and names all letters (upper and lowercase) and their sounds.
- ☐ Listens to stories attentively.
- ☐ Answers questions about a story (who, what, when, where, and how).
- ☐ Looks at pictures and then tells a story.
- ☐ Rhymes and identifies rhyming words and sounds.
- ☐ Speaks clearly and in complete sentences.
- ☐ Child's speech is understood by familiar and unfamiliar adults.
- ☐ Uses future tense; for example, "Grandma will be here."
- ☐ Says their own name and address.
- ☐ Follows two-step and three-step directions.



## Early Math Skills

- ☐ Understands one-to-one correspondence when counting.
- ☐ Counts and recognizes number names from 1 to 15.
- ☐ Compares two sets of objects to decide if they are equal or if one set has more or less.
- ☐ Recognizes primary colors and basic shapes.
- ☐ Sorts similar objects by color, size and shape.
- ☐ Can copy a triangle and other geometric shapes.



## Cognitive Skills

- ☐ Can draw a person with at least six body parts.
- ☐ Knows about things used every day, like toys and food.



## Social Skills

- ☐ Respects the property and feelings of others.
- ☐ Stays with an activity to completion.
- ☐ Uses words to solve problems or conflicts.
- ☐ Wants to please friends and be like friends.
- ☐ Likes to sing, dance and act.
- ☐ Is aware of gender.
- ☐ Can tell what is real and what is make-believe.
- ☐ Shows more independence.



## Physical Skills

- ☐ Stands on one foot for 10 seconds or longer.
- ☐ Hops and may be able to skip.
- ☐ Uses a fork and spoon.
- ☐ Can use the toilet on their own.
- ☐ Swings and climbs.



# Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten

## For Families

Did you know that through everyday experiences parents can strengthen their connection with their child and help to build their brain, including important language, math, reading and social-emotional skills?

Here are some tips to support you and your child in everyday activities - in whatever language you feel comfortable speaking at home. The more you engage with your child during your everyday moments, the more you prepare your child to succeed!





## Tips to Build Language Skills

- ☐ Label and describe experiences as they occur.
- ☐ Ask open-ended questions that require more than “yes,” “no” or other one-word answers.
- ☐ Ask “how” and “why” questions and build upon what they say.
- ☐ Have ongoing back-and-forth conversation exchanges with your child.



## Tips to Build Drawing and Writing Skills

- ☐ Provide writing tools and encourage their use.
- ☐ Allow your child to write in their own way, such as scribbling, drawing or letter-like forms. Don’t worry about spelling for now.
- ☐ Encourage your child to draw a picture to help express an idea.
- ☐ Provide opportunities for your child to practice writing their first and last name.



## Tips to Build Reading Readiness Skills

- ☐ Set a reading time for the whole family or a time when you and your child sit down to read.
- ☐ Let your child hold the book while they turn the pages and describe what they see.
- ☐ Read the same books over and over again.
- ☐ Talk about familiar logos and signs that you see when out and about, like McDonalds, Nike and a STOP sign.
- ☐ Practice reciting and identifying the names and sounds of letters.
- ☐ Have fun with rhyming words.





## Tips to Build Math Skills

- ☐ Provide many opportunities for counting and sorting with things like coins, leaves or blocks.
- ☐ Name and describe basic shapes found all around you.
- ☐ Practice identifying numbers and matching them to quantities.
- ☐ Compare quantities, sizes and volume using everyday objects.
- ☐ Play matching games.



## Tips to Build Self-Care Skills

- ☐ Encourage your child to pick out their clothes and dress themselves.
- ☐ Allow your child to use the bathroom and wash their hands on their own.
- ☐ Follow a consistent daily routine (morning, afternoon, bedtime).



## Tips to Build Social-Emotional Skills

- ☐ Talk about and model sharing, taking turns, positive words and social problem-solving.
- ☐ Take your child to the park or other social spaces and encourage them to interact with other children.
- ☐ Help your child to talk about and describe their feelings.
- ☐ Talk with your child about following directions and safety rules that they might have in kindergarten.

## MOST IMPORTANT

Praise your child often when you see them practicing these skills. This will build their **self-esteem** and prepare them for kindergarten.

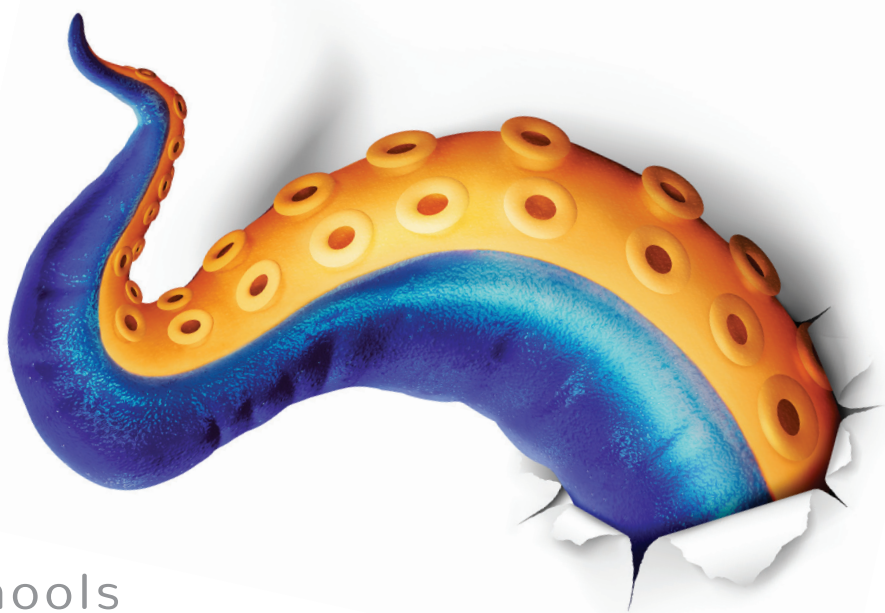




BOOK  
Club

# Kindergarten at Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Will your child be  
five years old  
by September  
1st? If so,  
your child is  
ready to begin  
kindergarten  
with Miami-Dade  
County Public Schools  
(M-DCPS) for the  
upcoming school year!





## How to Register for Kindergarten at M-DCPS

- Find your neighborhood school. Visit our Virtual Welcome Center at [showupmdcps.dadeschools.net](http://showupmdcps.dadeschools.net) to find the school your child can attend this fall.
- Visit your neighborhood school.
- Bring proof of identification, either through a birth certificate or passport.
- Provide two forms of proof of address - for example, a lease agreement and a utility bill.
- Provide child's health information. You will need to provide the State of Florida School Entry Health Examination and Florida Certificate of Immunization.

M-DCPS offers specialized academics and innovative programs, magnet/school choice options, mental health and student services, parental engagement opportunities, and more for kindergarten students and their families! The time is now to start your child's journey with an A-rated school district.

### Did you know?

- M-DCPS' graduation rate for the 2019-2020 school year was 89.6%.
- M-DCPS' teachers are certified and receive ongoing professional training.
- M-DCPS schools are AdvancED-accredited, meaning that they are committed to the care, education, learning, growth and development of young children.
- M-DCPS prioritizes the health, safety and well-being of students and employees.





## Exceptional Student Education (ESE) for kindergarten Students

Special education services provided in kindergarten may include the following:

- Inclusive services in a general education setting through support facilitation or co-teaching.
- Services provided in an ESE classroom.

The delivery of special education services is determined by the student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) team. Before entering kindergarten, an articulation meeting is held with the Prekindergarten IEP team and the receiving school. At that time, special education services for kindergarten students are determined by the team.



## Magnet Programs for Kindergarten Students

M-DCPS has 32 magnet programs at 22 school sites that accept kindergarten students. In kindergarten, there is no eligibility criteria to enroll in one of these programs. Interested parents have two opportunities to apply to magnet schools:

1. The regular application period runs annually from October 1 – January 15, for admission to kindergarten for the following school year.
2. Kindergarten families interested in applying to a magnet program after the regular application period has passed can visit [www.miamimagnets.org](http://www.miamimagnets.org) apply as soon as April 15 during the magnet off-cycle application period. This cycle is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. During the off-cycle application period, availability of magnet seats may be limited at some schools.