

Virginia's Definition of School Readiness

Ready Children



Ready children...

- “School readiness” describes the capabilities of children, their families, schools, and communities that will best promote student success in kindergarten and beyond.
- Each component - children, families, schools and communities - plays an essential role in the development of school readiness.
- No one component can stand on its own.



Ready children...

- **communicate effectively with adults and children by:**
 - labeling objects and feelings;
 - providing simple descriptions for events;
 - effectively conveying information, desires, and needs; and
 - using simple language and grammar to solve problems and to negotiate social interactions with adults and peers.



Ready children...

- **display emerging literacy skills by:**
 - showing interest in and interacting with books as they are read by adults;
 - answering questions;
 - learning to use new words and tell stories;
 - recognizing and producing speech sounds, such as rhymes, beginning sounds, and letter sounds;
 - identifying the letters of the alphabet;
 - learning about print concepts from books, signs, and household objects; and
 - engaging in drawing and pretend writing and writing their name, letters, and other printed symbols.



Ready children...

- **show an interest and skill in mathematics by:**
 - counting and using numbers to describe and compare;
 - recognizing and sorting simple shapes and describing their position;
 - identifying simple patterns;
 - making comparisons based on length, weight, time, temperature, and size; and
 - using objects in play, experimenting with materials, building blocks and puzzles.



Ready children...

- **build early science skills by:**
 - exploring and showing curiosity;
 - asking and answering questions about nature, why things happen and how things work;
 - identifying patterns and changes in daily life; and
 - making observations based on the five senses.



Ready children...

- **learn about history and social science by:**
 - interacting with their family, peers, religious, and social communities;
 - recognizing ways in which people are alike and different; and
 - recognizing the relationships between people, places and time.



Ready children...

- **enhance physical and motor development by:**
 - learning to control their bodies;
 - strengthening their muscles;
 - practicing different movements;
 - participating in regular physical activity; and
 - practicing healthy living and appropriate daily care routines.



Ready children...

- **exhibit personal and social skills and a sense of self-worth by:**
 - feeling secure and valued in their relationships;
 - expressing their emotions and taking pride in their accomplishments;
 - recognizing the consequences of their actions;
 - showing self-control; and
 - cooperating with others, using nonphysical ways to resolve conflicts.

