

Social & Emotional (SEL) Corner

From Preschool Plan It

<https://www.preschool-plan-it.com/kindergarten-skills.html>

What are the **kindergarten skills** preschoolers will need on their first day of Kindergarten? You may be surprised that printing one's name, recognizing, reciting and printing letters and number and counting are not at the top of most kindergarten teachers' lists!

Preschool teachers spend much time planning lessons and activities to help children master kindergarten skills and prepare their preschoolers for kindergarten. After all, that is the goal of most preschool programs: Kindergarten Readiness.

If you are a regular visitor to my site, you know my mantra regarding this: Our job is to **PREPARE** them for kindergarten, not to **TURN THEM INTO** kindergarteners!

When surveying preschool teachers each year, the responses (83-87%) list the following as the top 5 skills preschoolers need before entering Kindergarten:

They need to be able to: know all the colors, know the basic shapes, recognize and print all their letters, legibly print their first and last name, and recognize numbers 1-10 (or 20) and rote count to at least 30.

Now, these are very good and clear goals kindergarten skills. However, we tend to get so focused on them that we put other areas on the back burner.

We become ultra-focused on this Top 5 kindergarten skills list. If our students do not master each of these skills, we suspect there is some type of delay happening, or they may possibly be color blind to some colors, or they have an attention disorder.

We mean well. We've been working on these skills weekly all year, and in some cases, for two years.

However, what we sometimes forget is that they are **NOT** kindergarteners yet. Nope. Not even in March, 2 months before the end of the preschool year. They are still preschoolers!

They have another 6 months of time to mature, grow and develop before entering kindergarten, and therefore more time to develop these kindergarten skills.

In addition, what we do not include on this list are the very skills kindergarten teachers say will help their children succeed in kindergarten.

Scholastic Parent & Child Magazine published an article in the April/May 2003 issue called "Ready for Kindergarten? Five teachers tell what preschoolers really need for next year. The author was Ellen H. Parlapiano.

There were 7 skills or areas that were identified by these teachers. While the teachers said they would love for the children to come to kindergarten with some letter and number recognition, they don't want you to drill your kids on academics. **[Click on the link above to learn more!](#)**