

Kindergarten Screening



Information for Parents

Kindergarten screenings are common in many districts and states. As a parent, you probably wonder what these assessments measure, and how the results are used. Here is some information that will help you better understand kindergarten screenings.

Kindergarten Screening Overview

Screenings vary from district to district and state to state, but they generally assess all or some of these basic areas: language development, math skills, social/emotional skills, gross/fine motor skills, and self-care skills. Here are some things your child may be asked to do as part of their screening:

- ▶ give basic information such as name and age; rhyme simple words; follow simple spoken directions
- ▶ identify basic colors and shapes, count objects, put together a simple puzzle
- ▶ wash their hands; button and/or zip a piece of clothing; put on shoes
- ▶ run, skip, and jump; throw and catch a ball; hop on one foot
- ▶ hold a pencil; draw basic shapes; use scissors; draw a person

Children may also have their vision and hearing screened.

Want to help your child get ready for kindergarten? Watch this quick video.



VIDEO

When and where are screenings done?

Screenings are typically administered in a low-pressure environment in a classroom or library at the school your child will attend. Generally administered by staff members, screenings may be given anytime between spring and fall of the year your child enters kindergarten.

How are the results used?

Here are just a few of the ways kindergarten screening results are used:

- ▶ They help teachers become familiar with a child's abilities.
- ▶ They provide a baseline for a child's progress.
- ▶ They identify a child's areas of strength, as well as areas where additional monitoring and support may be needed.

How should I prepare my child?

There isn't any specific preparation that's needed for a kindergarten screening. What's most important is that your child view the screening as something that will be interesting and fun.

Tell your child that they will spend time with some very nice people who will talk to them, ask them some questions, and have them draw a few things. Do not say that this is a test or that it's important for them to do well.

Screening results are shared with parents to give them an idea of their child's kindergarten readiness. This information can also let parents know which skills they should continue to work on at home.