



Ready for Kindergarten?

A Checklist from themeasuredmom.com

On Target: Your child is doing great!

Mastery: Your child is doing even better than expected on this skill.

Red Flag: No need for panic! Just look for some playful learning activities to help your child grow in this area.

1. Counting

- **On Target:** Counting to 29 or 39
- **Mastery:** Counting to 100+
- **Red Flag:** Counting to 12

How to improve: Count anything and everything. Count aloud without counting actual objects. Use an abacus.

Bonus: Count back and forth to 1000.

2. The Alphabet

- **On Target:** Names all capital letters and some lower case letters. Names half the sounds.
- **Mastery:** Names all capital and lower case letters and every letter's sound
- **Red Flag:** Names only a few capital letters and very few lower case letters. Names only a few sounds.

How to improve: Read alphabet books every day until your child starts pointing out letters he sees on food packages, books, and signs. Do alphabet activities together from themeasuredmom.com.

Bonus: Start teaching your child to read. Try This Reading Mama's free *Reading the Alphabet* curriculum for preschoolers. (thisreadingmama.com)

3. The Bathroom

- **On Target:** Is comfortable wearing his or her school clothes and operating the buttons, snaps and zippers independently.
- **Mastery:** Can easily operate all kinds of fasteners on clothing without assistance.
- **Red Flag:** Needs help removing and fastening clothing to use the bathroom.

How to improve: Practice wearing school clothes around the house.

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4. Name Writing

- **On Target:** Uses all capital letters (first name).
- **Mastery:** Begins with a capital letter and follows with lowercase letters (first name).
- **Red Flag:** Cannot recognize her name, cannot spell it, or cannot write it.

How to improve: Have your child write his or her name on a large, unlined pad of paper daily. Flip to a new page each day and watch as the name becomes smaller and more readable.

Bonus: Teach your child to write his or her last name.

5. Listening to Books

- **On Target:** Enjoys listening to a stack of picture books. Makes personal connections to stories and answers simple questions. May be recognizing a handful of familiar words.
- **Mastery:** Asks to be read to every day. Will listen to a large stack of picture books and beg for more. Enjoys listening to simple chapter books with good attention. Makes personal connections to stories and answers both simple and complex questions correctly. May be reading some books independently.
- **Red Flag:** Does not sit for more than 1-2 books at time. Does not talk about books or ask basic questions. Cannot answer simple questions about a story. Usually prefers a screen to a book.

How to improve: Limit screen time and read to your child several times a day if possible. For book suggestions, visit <http://www.pinterest.com/themeasuredmom/best-picture-books-for-kids/>.

Bonus: If you're not already reading chapter books to your preschooler, it's not too early to start! For great suggestions, check out <http://www.whatdowedoallday.com/2012/08/50-chapter-books-for-preschoolers-and-3-year-olds.html>.

Even when children have mastered these academic skills, it's important that they are ready socially, emotionally, and behaviorally.

For more information, visit this link: <http://fun-a-day.com/kindergarten-readiness/>