

Myths About Kindergarten

My child needs to know how to read before kindergarten.

Kindergarten is where children begin learning to read. A love of books and strong language skills are more important than reading independently.

My child should know all of their letters, numbers, and sight words.

Children enter kindergarten with different academic skills. Teachers expect to build on what each child already knows.

Worksheets are the best way to prepare for kindergarten.

Young children learn best through play, conversation, hands-on exploration, and everyday experiences.

If my child still cries at drop-off, they aren't ready.

Many children have big emotions during transitions. With consistency and support, most adjust quickly.

Being able to sit still for long periods is required.

Kindergarten includes movement, play, and hands-on learning. Children are expected to build their attention span over time.

Children should already know everything before the first day.

Kindergarten is designed to teach new skills. Teachers expect children to continue learning throughout the year.

Kindergarten readiness is mostly about academics.

Social skills, communication, independence, and emotional regulation are just as important as letters and numbers.

If my child is shy, they aren't ready for school.

Shy children can be very successful in kindergarten. Confidence grows as they build relationships and become familiar with routines.

Children should never make mistakes.

Mistakes are an important part of learning. Kindergarten encourages children to try, explore, and learn from their experiences.

Children should know exactly how to write before kindergarten.

Developing hand strength, fine motor skills, and an interest in writing are more important than perfect handwriting.

A child who plays all day isn't learning.

Purposeful play builds language, problem-solving, creativity, self-regulation, and early academic skills.

Every child should be ready at the same age.

Every child develops at their own pace. Readiness is about the whole child, not reaching every milestone on the same timeline.