DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR KINDERGARTEN - CHECKLIST

This check-list is intended as a guide only. It is not necessary for your child to have acquired all of these skills before moving on to Kindergarten. If you note that there are skills that are just emerging* or your child is not yet doing, set these as skills to focus on over the summer.

Social Skills

	Follows directions given by teacher
	Can engage/participate in circle for up to 30 min
	Stays with a structured activity for 10-12 min
	Is cooperative and willing to please
	Knows some games with rules – tag or board games
	Strong awareness of peer relationships (chooses own friends)

Self Help Skills

	Independent with front zippers, buckles, buttons, and snaps
	Able to dress independently (sock heels in right place; shoes & boots on right feet; winter clothes)
	Toileting independently, including wiping
	Washes & dries hands by themselves
	Able to open Ziplock bags, small containers or drink boxes
	Independently drinking from a cup or straw
	Able to pour their own drink
	Understands safe and not safe
	Understands safety concept of "Never go with someone strange, unless you tell an adult in charge"

Understanding Language

	Knows their first and last name, their age and address and phone #
	Understands/expresses emotions: happy, sad, angry, mad, sick, bored, tired, frustrated, upset, annoyed
	Knows up to 6 colours
	Recognizes 5 of something
	Gives up to 5 of something
	Counts up to 5: how many do I have?
	Knows same and different
	Knows what doesn't belong in a category
	Understands quantity concepts: all, same, few, less, more, a bit, many, pair, empty, full
	Categorizes: food – clothes – shapes – colours – transportation – animals
	Sequences: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, beginning & end, next
	Knows story order: first, last ,middle
	Names some letters – often the ones in their own name
	Understanding of left & right emerging*
	Knows what things are made of: rubber, plastic, metal, wood, etc.
	Should be able to name parts of objects: door of the car; handle of the cup
	Understands spatial concept: in, on, under, behind, beside, next to, up, down, forward, backward, in front of, top, bottom
	Makes inferences: someone hurt their knee – can guess how many or why something happened

	Uses sentences of 4-6 words.

Use of Language

	Tells their first and last name, their age and address and phone #
	Describes a procedure: how to make a sandwich – first, next and last
	Retells story in own words
	Vocabulary by definition – knows what you use things for: e.g., something you eat with
	Talks about remote events: what do you do before you cross the street
	Uses present, past and future tense.
	Uses quantity concepts: all, same, few, less, more, a bit, many, pair, empty, full
	Uses common opposites: big/little, slow/fast, dark/light, wet/dry
	Uses spatial concept: in, on, under, behind, beside, next to, up, down, forward, backward, in front of, top, bottom
	Uses time concepts: yesterday, today, tomorrow
	Asks & responds to questions: when, how, where do you put it, what is it for, why
	Speech is 80-90% intelligible (errors on /s/, /r/, /l/ and /th/ may persist.

Fine Motor/Visual Skills

	Draws picture of themselves – usually with head, body, arms, legs, fingers and facial features
	Establishes hand dominance
	Establishes pencil grip
	Copies with pencil a circle, cross, square, and perhaps a triangle
	Cuts out simple shapes – follows lines with scissors
	Interest in copying or writing first name.
	Interest in copying or writing numbers.
	Builds a copy of a block pattern (6-10 blocks)
	Able to lace shoes
	Sorts objects by colour, size and shape
	Arrange 3 single pictures in correct sequence

Gross Motor

	Rides a tricycle, possibly two wheeler with training wheels
	Stands on 1 foot (8 sec)
	Hops with both feet together (7-8 hops)
	Hops on 1 foot (3-4 hops)
	Gallops – 15 feet
	Skips – in forward motion alternating feet (15 feet)
	Has safety awareness in play
	Is street wise – looks both ways
	Throws & catches ball – overhand
	Bounces a ball
	Can catch a bouncing ball

*emerging = sometimes they do it and sometimes not