

The Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)

Is Your Child Prepared for Kindergarten?

FLKRS assesses how prepared each student is for kindergarten based on performance standards the Florida Department of Education adopted for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program. FLKRS focuses on emergent literacy and early mathematics.

Emergent literacy skills are considered strong predictors of a child’s later reading abilities. Here are some ways to help your child develop language and literacy skills:

- Read to your child daily using facial expressions, gestures and descriptive words as you read.
- Read favorite books again and again asking “who”, “what”, “where” and “why” questions.
- Point out numbers, letters, and words in the world around you. (e.g. at home, on signs and billboards as you travel, at the store)
- Use finger plays, nursery rhymes, songs and poetry to help your child recognize the sounds of spoken language.
- Follow a recipe as you cook with your child and allow them to help with measuring, stirring, etc.
- Play games that require listening and thinking. (e.g. “I Spy”: “I spy something that has wings, and flies in the air and is resting on the window ledge right now!”)
- Provide opportunities for back-and-forth talk during daily routines. (e.g. at meal-times, during the morning routine, when traveling, at the grocery store)
- Encourage your child to talk about events of the day and things in which they are interested.
- Give your child two-step directions. (e.g. “Get your shoes from the closet and put them on.”)
- Create a home environment rich in both print and the spoken word.

Here are some ways to help your child develop early mathematics skills:

- Provide opportunities for your child to sort items or toys into categories. (e.g. items that are heavy vs. items that are light)
- Incorporate early mathematics into everyday activities. (e.g. counting body parts, how many places to set at the dinner table, counting as high as possible before the traffic light changes from red to green)
- Have your child collect items like rocks and leaves on a walk. Arrange them in a pattern (e.g. one rock, two leaves, one rock, and two leaves). Then mix them up and ask your child to recreate the pattern.
- Play number games with your child by rolling dice or use a number card, and move that many spaces.
- Use numbers to make shopping lists together.
- Provide materials (e.g. popsicle sticks, clay, toothpicks, straws, etc.) with which your child can explore and create shapes and numerals.
- When setting the table for a meal, encourage your child to think of different ways to fold napkins or paper towels to make different shapes and sizes by saying, “What shapes can you make? What does this shape look like?”
- Provide fun experiences at home by asking your child to sequence common items (e.g. utensils, leaves, rocks, shoes) according to size. Begin with 3-4 items and increase up to six items as your child is able to order the items and describe their arrangements according to size.

If you have concerns about your child’s language or early mathematics development, talk to your child’s preschool teacher or pediatrician, or contact your local early learning coalition.



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