

Q14 Are children ready for school? Describe the readiness of children for school success upon kindergarten entry. How do you know if they are or are not ready?

Answered: 134 Skipped: 67

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	MOST KIDS DONT EVEN KNOW THE ALPHABET WHEN THEY GET TO SCHOOL	6/25/2025 11:31 AM
2	Many government supported programs such as Head Start and Alabama First Class Pre-k excel in school readiness but other programs struggle to train staff to offer adequate training to support school readiness.	6/24/2025 2:08 PM
3	Some are and some aren't If they child is not exposed to all things needed to thrive, they will fall short unpin entering school	6/24/2025 12:02 PM
4	School can be a place of support and learning if the child is regulated. Why not treat all children with the supports a trauma child needs. It would not hurt anyone and in fact would likely be better for all kids.	6/24/2025 10:49 AM
5	In my wealthy district many are ready, but those who are not, I feel like a general readiness of social, emotional, pre-literacy, & pre-numeracy skills need to be taught to parents by pediatricians, pre-school teachers, and community awareness (parent education in parks, libraries, anywhere that families with young children go that also had links to resources that could help). I notice so many parents whose kindergarten kids didn't get early intervention either just tagged along with older siblings who did for them or whose parents just had no comparison to other typical kids' development. People don't know what they don't know. Lots of general information about developmental stages and skills is needed. The earlier the interventions can be in place the less problems kids have later. Also, we need so many talented SPED teachers and the job needs to be more attractive. It is hard work.	6/24/2025 10:19 AM
6	School readiness refers to whether children are equipped with the skills, behaviors, and knowledge needed to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. In Jefferson County and across the U.S., not all children enter kindergarten equally prepared. Many factors—such as family income, access to early learning, and health—affect how ready a child is when they walk through the classroom door for the first time. Strengths: Children who attend high-quality Pre-K programs, such as Alabama's First Class Pre-K, consistently show greater readiness in language, math, and social-emotional skills. Children from supportive home environments—where reading, talking, and play are emphasized—are often more school-ready. Challenges: Children from low-income, underserved, or non-English-speaking homes often start behind due to limited access to quality early learning and healthcare. Many children with no formal pre-K experience may struggle with routines, social skills, and foundational academic concepts. Children with undiagnosed learning or developmental delays may lack support until later in the school year.	6/24/2025 10:10 AM
7	IDK	6/23/2025 8:12 PM
8	Most of the children we see have an IEP going into kindergarten	6/23/2025 3:36 PM
9	Some are and some aren't. Those who have not be given the opportunity to have some structured learning prior to Kindergarten are at a disadvantage.	6/23/2025 2:31 PM
10	No	6/23/2025 10:31 AM
11	Teachers and schools use assessment tools to assess children when they start kindergarten	6/23/2025 10:25 AM
12	N/A	6/23/2025 9:33 AM
13	No Knowledge of basic alphabet principles	6/23/2025 9:29 AM
14	Social emotional needs	6/23/2025 9:20 AM

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15	Unknown	6/23/2025 9:11 AM
16	n/a	6/18/2025 9:50 AM
17	Highly dependent on home community, families' access to quality childcare and preschool services. Some families depend on well child screenings to provide some feedback about developmental progress. Some families are connected ti programs which offer general assessment and feedback about progress.	6/17/2025 7:27 PM
18	N/A	6/16/2025 10:32 AM
19	I'm not sure	6/10/2025 1:49 PM
20	unknown	6/9/2025 2:18 PM
21	Many children are not ready, though a child who has had higher levels of caregiver engagement, social interactions with peers their age, and some basic learning of protocols skills and have learned some structured expectations, seem to be better able to engage than those who have not or had inconsistent experiences. Kids who have had inconsistent experiences, abuse/trauma, or have not had access to peers/more than a few authority figures had harder times adjusting to the consistent expectations of the school environment.	6/8/2025 4:34 PM
22	Children being curious and asking questions is important and a great indicator for childhood readiness for kindergarten. Not having a large vocabulary and not being curious I feel is an important indicator of whether a child will start out successful in kindergarten.	6/7/2025 8:49 AM
23	No- social skills and fine motor skills are lacking	6/6/2025 2:58 PM
24	IDK. Today, children are faced with a multitude of barriers. Poverty, Illiteracy, Environmental, Lack of structure & stability in the home environment adversely impact a Childs readiness upon entering kindergarten. However, technology for those who access to computers and internet are better prepared.	6/6/2025 12:20 PM
25	Lack of social and emotional development.	6/6/2025 11:47 AM
26	N/a	6/6/2025 12:40 AM
27	No - Literacy rates	6/5/2025 5:41 PM
28	CHILDREN THAT ATTEND QUALITY DAYCARE THAT EMPHASIS EDUCATION HAVE BETTER OUTCOMES. SO WHEN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN THAT ARE BOUND FOR SUCCESS. WE CAN MEASURE THAT KNOWLEGE BY TESTING BEFORE LEAVING	6/5/2025 5:06 PM
29	Unsure	6/5/2025 2:50 PM
30	unsure	6/5/2025 2:39 PM
31	There are many key components to school readiness; Pre reading skills, lack of social and emotional skills, lack of parent engagement with children. Mental health issues at an early age.	6/5/2025 2:21 PM
32	Children are not ready for school. Parents do not take the time to work with their children on basic knowledge that they should know upon entering school.	6/5/2025 2:02 PM
33	A lot of times they aren't ready for school. As stated before need free accessible early childccare	6/5/2025 1:15 PM
34	Not ready for kindergarten with skills needed.	6/5/2025 10:03 AM
35	for alabama, maybe. by national standards no.	6/5/2025 9:52 AM
36	No opinion	6/5/2025 9:46 AM
37	I don't know	6/5/2025 9:46 AM
38	No. They are struggling due to lack of Pre-K program availability. You see that by 3rd grade many of them are failing in reading and math.	6/5/2025 8:42 AM
39	No, children enter kindergarten at a 3 to 4 year old ability level	6/5/2025 8:23 AM
40	Children are ready for school when they have foundational knowledge and skills academically (emergent reading, writing, math, science, social studies) and an ability to navigate the social and emotional demands of school.	6/5/2025 8:14 AM

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41	IDK	6/4/2025 8:47 PM
42	na	6/4/2025 1:45 PM
43	I am unsure.	6/4/2025 12:32 PM
44	So kids have home schooling or go to a daycare or Head Start program for entering school	6/4/2025 11:22 AM
45	yes, they will be able to display all the necessary skills needed to successful enter kindergarten	6/4/2025 9:22 AM
46	Na	6/4/2025 8:40 AM
47	I do not know for sure, but if I had to guess, I'd say no. Too much technology, not enough reading and skill development at home	6/3/2025 11:34 AM
48	No Apt on screens not books	6/3/2025 9:42 AM
49	Not ready. Some parents are unable to provide early education at home due to their own educational limitations. Children should be familiar with the alphabet and numbers upon kindergarten entry.	6/2/2025 4:07 PM
50	It depends on parental involvement, exposure and community support	6/2/2025 1:23 PM
51	I am not sure if they are ready for kindergarten	6/2/2025 1:07 PM
52	I think those who have parents support maybe ready but that is not a guarantee.	6/2/2025 1:07 PM
53	Depends on where they live. Some zip codes have more resources than others	6/2/2025 10:17 AM
54	Most are	6/2/2025 10:15 AM
55	Don't know	6/2/2025 9:30 AM
56	I'm not an educator, so I can't answer that question. However, I am an advocate for parents to start with their children at home through books, positive interactions, etc.	6/2/2025 8:32 AM
57	if they are potty trained, know fundamentals of counting, abc's, following simple directions and have some form of discipline to get along with peers	6/1/2025 10:49 PM
58	Idk	5/30/2025 9:58 AM
59	DNK	5/30/2025 4:54 AM
60	some children are ready for kindergarten, but I am seeing some children are not learning appropriate play skills and social skills that are just as important as cognitive learning.	5/29/2025 9:17 PM
61	No, need more focus on social and emotional skills at an earlier age	5/29/2025 12:26 PM
62	N/A	5/29/2025 12:03 PM
63	na	5/29/2025 11:51 AM
64	No clue	5/28/2025 4:21 PM
65	No. Can't be promoted , lack of engagement , poor early education transition	5/28/2025 3:57 PM
66	Unsure.	5/28/2025 3:52 PM
67	Some.. those who attend Head Start or PreK	5/28/2025 3:29 PM
68	I pride myself in developing children so that they are. I do respect parents who disagree. I think it comes down to emotional maturity. The rest they can learn as they go, but if they are not emotionally ready it will not go well.	5/28/2025 2:53 PM
69	Children who are ready thrive in school. But, those who are not ready fall behind so quickly due to lack of resources, exposure, opportunities, etc.	5/28/2025 2:45 PM
70	If they are displaying developmentally appropriate social skills and basic counting, identifying colors and at least some letters.	5/28/2025 2:29 PM
71	Unsure	5/28/2025 2:12 PM
72	NA	5/28/2025 1:37 PM

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73	Their poor behaviors indicate their readiness.	5/27/2025 8:30 PM
74	not really. Staff at elementary schools and testing scores show that.	5/27/2025 3:46 PM
75	Can't follow directions, can't sit in social settings, can't retain information	5/27/2025 1:34 PM
76	N/A	5/27/2025 8:37 AM
77	Yes. For the most part	5/24/2025 1:14 PM
78	The kids at my facility are ready, because we are the stepping stone for the child to obtain Knowledge in the pivotal years of growth and knowledge. What I have done is to find out what my kids need to know with in the first 9 weeks of school, and to prepare them to be ready or to exceed what is required	5/23/2025 6:10 PM
79	No, most students go from home to school with no connection to education until they go,. In the state of Alabama students do not have to got school until 7 years old legally	5/23/2025 1:50 PM
80	Varies based on their knowledge of letters, numbers, ability to speak words, recognize pics and shapes, follow instructions, write their name, go to the restroom, etc.	5/23/2025 12:32 PM
81	No. Children in Alabama are still entering kindegarten lacking the foundational skills for academic success.	5/23/2025 11:42 AM
82	access to literacy programs prior to kindergarten age, parental involvement in preparing children for kindergarten, those children come with supplies and show interest in learning	5/23/2025 11:41 AM
83	I don't think that many children are ready for kindergarten today. I also believe that kindergarten is not developmentally appropriate and asks for too many academic-based skills.	5/23/2025 10:43 AM
84	No, many children are not ready. Parents often struggle to start children in school on time, often children don't have clothes, supplies to start the school year.	5/23/2025 10:05 AM
85	I think majority of Kindergartners are ready, however, more can be done... on the parents part. You can measure the readiness by utilizing assessments.	5/22/2025 6:46 PM
86	Unsure. Many kids in my area already can read a bit and do simple math by age 5.	5/22/2025 4:38 PM
87	This depends on the care a child gets before kindergarten. Those in quality care learning environments are prepared. They are ready when they are able to manage behaviors and posses the emotional stability as well as the prelearning requisites needed.	5/22/2025 3:44 PM
88	I know they are not ready if they are not meeting developmental milestones.	5/22/2025 3:39 PM
89	N/A	5/22/2025 1:35 PM
90	Many children with disabilities face immense challenges not because of their abilities, but because they have not been given the tools, experiences, and preparation needed to navigate the world around them. Learning delays and extreme behavioral challenges can make new environments feel overwhelming—like being thrust into an unfamiliar world with no guidance. Yet, the opportunity to ease this transition exists. What if, during the summer, children were invited to visit key locations and meet the people they would interact with ahead of time? Familiarity could replace fear, giving them the confidence to step forward instead of being left behind. What would it take to make such a shift a reality?	5/22/2025 1:07 PM
91	Kids with access to resources are more ready than other children and familes	5/22/2025 11:51 AM
92	Idk	5/22/2025 11:24 AM
93	A child's readiness for school encompasses various factors including physical well- being, social-emotional development, approaches to learning, language development and cognitive skills. A child may not be ready for kindergarten if they struggle with basic skills like following directions, communicating their needs, or managing their emotions.	5/22/2025 11:08 AM
94	Readiness: The child has the ability to use fine and gross motor skills and possesses cognitive understanding and ability to learn. The child can follows simple instructions and complete tasks. How you know they're ready for school is through observation and assessment tools, development screenings and kindergarten readiness assessment. The child is not ready for school if they have difficulty following simple instructions. Limited vocabulary and struggles with basic motor skills.	5/22/2025 11:04 AM

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95	I don't know	5/22/2025 11:03 AM
96	More children are ready but those increases are on the margins. I worry about how the potential retraction of resources may erase the gains we've made	5/22/2025 10:20 AM
97	Some kids are ready and some are not depending on the family dynamics. If they have older siblings, they tend to learn from those siblings if they're from a single parent where mom is often working and not focus on that child development and then there are times when it's a single mom that works hard to make sure that child is ready for kindergarten so it just depends on the family's.	5/22/2025 10:19 AM
98	Some districts provide testing for the prek children.	5/22/2025 10:01 AM
99	Idk	5/22/2025 9:51 AM
100	There isn't a consistent way of measuring K readiness across school districts or pre-k programs. Need a standardized tool that provides an accurate estimate of how many children are ready for kindergarten in order to know how we're doing and where we need to focus.	5/22/2025 9:38 AM
101	No, most children are not ready for school because there are no opportunities available.	5/22/2025 9:33 AM
102	By learning the readiness guidelines provided by the schools Unfortunately finances play a huge part in the ability for these children to attend a learning preschool and not a daycare facility	5/22/2025 9:27 AM
103	Most children from lower income families are not ready for kindergarten	5/22/2025 9:23 AM
104	NO	5/22/2025 9:16 AM
105	some yes but many no. Children that have not attended a prek program or any childcare are unprepared for a school's strict schedule.	5/22/2025 8:53 AM
106	If they have not received childcare services at early age.	5/22/2025 8:30 AM
107	I do not know	5/22/2025 8:19 AM
108	It depends on if the have had pre-k of something with learning	5/22/2025 8:18 AM
109	Somewhat. Social skills need to flow from daycare setting into the formal educational settings.	5/22/2025 8:16 AM
110	No, we are seeing a decline in children who are academically ready but also socially and emotionally ready for school and the rigidness of the school day.	5/21/2025 10:35 AM
111	The preschool experience of children is a determining factor of kindergarten readiness. Those who are ready exude independence in all social, emotional and academic areas.	5/20/2025 1:41 PM
112	Most students in our district are ready for kindergarten.	5/20/2025 10:01 AM
113	I don't know	5/20/2025 10:00 AM
114	no. They are not emotionally ready even if they have had good early learning experiences. Early relational health and development is foundational to academic success and we do not address the most marginalized population well to empower the adults to provide this foundation.	5/20/2025 8:51 AM
115	No because parents hardly bring them to school	5/20/2025 4:13 AM
116	Unknown	5/19/2025 4:48 PM
117	The majority of children are not ready for kindergarten if they didn't attend some sort of early education program. Children need the academic skills (color, shape, number, and letter recognition, rhyming, name writing, etc.) as well as social-emotional skills like sharing, cooperating with others, and being able to name their emotions. There are kindergarten readiness checklists that help parents and teachers identify if children are ready.	5/19/2025 3:54 PM
118	I don't know	5/19/2025 1:27 PM
119	This is an equity issue. Screen time is still adversely used and seen as an education tool. Children need more learning through play.	5/19/2025 12:49 PM
120	no, poor parental involvement and support of the school system is epidemic.	5/19/2025 11:49 AM

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121	NO - because they're not getting into high quality childcare or headstart programs.	5/19/2025 10:43 AM
122	N/A	5/19/2025 10:32 AM
123	Many are not based on screeners. There is a difference between those who go to pre k and those who don't	5/19/2025 10:31 AM
124	I have no first hand knowledge	5/19/2025 10:07 AM
125	Some children may be more prepared than others based on the level of parental engagement and competence of childcare providers. You know they are not ready when reasonable benchmarks are not met by a certain timeframe based on childhood development standards.	5/19/2025 9:57 AM
126	I don't know.	5/19/2025 9:53 AM
127	Depends on where the child is enrolled. Child needs social skills to be ready	5/19/2025 9:17 AM
128	Not sure	5/19/2025 9:11 AM
129	The Hispanic children have an especially difficult time.	5/19/2025 9:04 AM
130	Some are ready as others are not. Children should be able to follow instructions and have some discipline. I am not sure what schools look at to determine readiness.	5/19/2025 8:57 AM
131	Many are ready, many are not. Children who have attended high-quality Pre-K programs are more likely to be ready for Kindergarten.	5/19/2025 8:45 AM
132	I do not know.	5/19/2025 8:44 AM
133	By the time a child has completed kindergarten, he/she should be ready for first grade. Learning problems should be identified early and plans made to address deficiencies before the child gets to the end of kindergarten year.	5/19/2025 8:37 AM
134	No, I do not think so. Behaviors in Kindergarten have become more challenging.	5/19/2025 8:35 AM