

Preschool/ Prekindergarten Readiness

Your child is turning 3, and you feel he/she is ready for a preschool... but how do you KNOW? A lot has changed in education in the last 10 years. In fact, kindergarten today looks a lot like first grade did 9 years ago! More is expected of our children academically, socially, and emotionally when it comes to school. Intelligence alone is not the best indicator of school readiness. In order to give your child the best possible school experience, you want to make sure he/she is ready and mature enough (socially, emotionally, physically) to meet the challenges.

The preschool and prekindergarten teachers* of St. Susanna School have put together some guidelines to help you decide which class may be best for your child. There is no magic “right answer”, but this may help you feel more confident about your choice!

Is my child ready for Preschool? (Must turn 3 by August 1.)

My child:

- Can comfortably separate from parent. (After a short adjustment period.)
- Interacts appropriately with other children.
- Is able to verbally express his/her needs.
- Shows some independence with dressing, such as
 - Pull pants up/down,
 - Attempts to put on outerwear,
- Throws away own trash after snack.
- Follows simple 1-2 step directions.
- Is independently potty-trained
 - Does not wear Pull-ups,
 - Naps without an accident (although we understand an occasional accident *could* happen!),
 - Recognizes when he/she needs to use the restroom,
 - Is able to wipe self.



Is my child ready for prekindergarten? (Must turn 4 by August 1.)

My child:

Religion

- Shows respect during prayers
- If Catholic, has been introduced to basic prayers (“Angel of God” & Blessing before meals)

Readiness/Motor Skills

- Knows how to hold/use pencils, crayons, and scissors correctly
- Attempts to put on outerwear
- Attempts to zip, snap, and button necessary items of clothing

Academic Skills

- Recognizes basic colors
- Recognizes basic shapes (rectangle, square, triangle, circle, oval, diamond)
- Can focus on a story
- Attempts to write first name

- Knows full name
- Can count to 10
- Has been introduced to numerals 0-10
- Has been introduced to letters of the alphabet

Emotional/Social Skills

- Separates from parent or caregiver without anxiety
- Is learning to take turns and share
- Interacts with peers in a kind way
- Listens when an adult is talking
- Will speak to teachers and ask for help when needed
- Is able to take care of personal/bathroom needs alone

**Mrs. Karen Hosek, full-day prekindergarten – Mrs. Hosek has a Master of Education degree plus 30+ years of teaching experience.*

Mrs. Natalie Brenneman, half-day prekindergarten – Mrs. Brenneman has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Kindergarten from Ball State. She taught kindergarten for 6 years and is completing her first year of prekindergarten at St. Susanna School. In addition, she coached 2 – 6 year-olds in tumbling and gymnastics.

Ms. Amanda Rumble, preschool – Ms. Rumble has a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Indiana University. She has experience working with preschool, prekindergarten, and kindergarten children and is completing her first year of teaching at St. Susanna School.

