

Information for parents

Skills children need to have before entering kindergarten

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Children, before they commence kindergarten, should have acquired certain social and language skills that will help enhance their ability to communicate and interact with their teachers and members of their peer group. Most children by the age of four or five have a vocabulary of about 1500 words. The following list gives some examples of the skills children should be observed doing by the time they enter kindergarten. If you are concerned about any area of your child's development please contact your family doctor, or an Early Childhood Centre.

They should be able to:

- recognise their own name and the names of members of their family
- say the names of children they play with on a regular basis or who attend their preschool
- follow simple verbal directions given by adults and peers
- listen to short stories and recall simple details of a particular story
- retell a favourite story they have heard several times before
- remember and repeat simple nursery rhymes and poems and sing known songs
- talk with other children
- answer simple questions asked of them and ask questions of others, for example, "Mummy, why is the sky blue and the grass green?"
- identify and name the primary colours and some of the secondary colours – red, blue, yellow, green and orange
- work at an activity or a task for a short period of time unsupervised – about five minutes
- commence and usually do a task when asked the first or second time
- learn new tasks and activities when shown
- take turns with others when talking and playing games
- make and maintain eye contact when talking with a family member, another adult or a known child
- initiate and maintain a conversation without interrupting
- name the days of the week
- talk about the time and time concepts such as first and last, before school and after school
- may be able to identify some letters or read simple words
- count orally to ten
- respond to a number of "wh..." questions, for example, What are you doing? Which drink is yours? Where are your shoes?

For more Information

If you require further information please contact:

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