



Oregon Kindergarten Assessment: Helping teachers best support your kindergartener

We are looking forward to welcoming your kindergartener on the first day of school for kindergarten students, Thursday, Sept. 1. This year, all children entering kindergarten in Oregon will participate in the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment. Your school will contact you to schedule a time for you and your child to meet your teacher and take the assessment **Aug. 29, 30 or 31**.

The assessment does not involve passing or failing. The assessment simply helps your child's teacher understand your child's learning needs and plan how best to meet those needs. Your child will participate in assessment activities that focus on early literacy and math skills, and social-emotional development.

Here are some commonly asked questions about the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment:

How long is the assessment? It takes most children about 15 minutes to complete the assessment with the teacher. This meeting is an opportunity for you and your child to get to know the teacher and talk about kindergarten, helping your kindergartener feel more confident and positive about starting school. After your child has attended kindergarten for a few weeks, the teacher will assess your child's interactions with children and other social skills.

Can my child fail the test? No. Students cannot fail the test. This assessment simply provides a snapshot of what your child knows upon entering kindergarten.

How can I help prepare my child for kindergarten? As a parent, you are your child's first – and most important – teacher. You can start instilling a love of learning and build important early skills through fun activities and games. Examples and links to additional resources are available below.

If you have questions about scheduling your assessment, please call your school.

Activities and Games to Promote School Success

Read and talk with your child. Reading and talking together builds vocabulary. Your public library offers books and story times. Talk to your child about starting kindergarten and meeting new friends. Ask if your child has questions about school and together share them with the teacher.

Practice the school routine before school starts. Routines reduce stress for children and parents, and also support great attendance in school. Good attendance in kindergarten leads to school success! Practice an early bed time and wake-up time, and confident good bye. To help remember the routine, together create a morning check list together with pictures of each activity.

Give your child the opportunity to make choices. Allowing your child to pick out his or her own clothes or select the vegetable for the family dinner develops decision-making skills.

Allow your child enough time to start and complete a project. Making sure that your child has enough time to complete an activity, such as a block building, improves focus and increases confidence.

Use math in daily activities and routines. Helping to sort and match socks in the laundry, counting out carrot sticks at snack time, and naming shapes of objects in the room are a few simple ways to introduce math concepts.

For more information about the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment and resources with readiness tips, visit: <http://oregonearlylearning.com/kindergarten-assessment/ka-for-parents/>