

Milestones and Measurements *Language and Literacy*

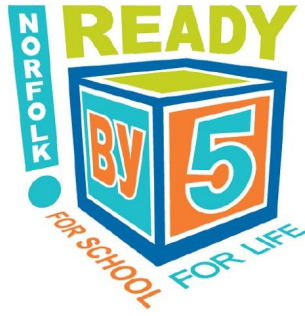
Nearly one-third of all Virginia children aren't fully ready for kindergarten. Is your child ready?

Schools look for certain skills and abilities in children to be ready for school. There are many things to look for in 4 key categories of development:

- Language and Literacy
- Math and Science
- Personal and Social Development
- Physical and Motor Development

This checklist provides a list of important milestones. If your child is not progressing, as you think he should, try the learning activities. They are designed to encourage development through various stages. If you are concerned about your child's development, please consult with your health care provider or other medical professional for further diagnosis and recommendations.

Can Your Child	Learning Activity
Hold conversations, listen, ask and answer questions	Engage child in conversations during routine daily activities. Ask open-ended questions. Provide feedback for child's responses.
Listen to and enjoy stories and nursery rhymes	Enjoy "conversations" with books. Relate story events to the child's real life experiences, and predict what will happen next. Talk about the settings, characters and their motivations or feelings. Use the story plot for pretend play.
Say or sing familiar songs and rhymes	Say nursery rhymes, sing, and play rhyming games, focusing on words that sound alike. Make up new rhymes.
Name and describe objects, places, pictures and events	Provide realistic pictures and photos of everyday objects and events. Ask open-ended questions, "What is this child doing? What do you think is going to happen next?"
Use imagination to create own stories	Support pretend play by adding props or ideas. Encourage child to dictate or tell a story and illustrate her own books. Don't forget the title page with author.



Can Your Child	Learning Activity
Use complete sentences	Ask open-ended questions that encourage child to think deeply and express their ideas. Example: "What would we have to do to be able to build the tower higher? Tell me your plan." When child responds, repeat what he/she says, adding more information for longer more complex sentences. Listen with your full attention.
Follow simple one step directions	Play "Simon Says" without anyone getting "out" so a child can stay in the game for more practice. Include words such as over, under, near, far, beside, between, on, next to, behind, inside, edge and in a row.
Recognize words or signs he or she sees often	Collect labels from cereal boxes and familiar logos. Ask, "What do you think this means?" Make picture/word "signs" for places and directions. Example: kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, tables, chair, and wash hands.
Recognize and try to write his or her name	Write child's name, using lowercase letters (except for the first letter) in clothing, on possessions, and on child's drawings. Refer to these labels. Provide art materials such as sand, string, and paint for creative name writing.
Name some familiar letters	Play letter matching games using magnetic letters, blocks, etc. Begin with only uppercase letters and those found in the child's name. Use other high interest words such as: mom, dad, love, or family names. As interest grows, expand to other letters, eventually using lowercase letters.