



Is my child ready for Kindergarten?

State of Michigan guidelines require that children be 5 by September 1st to enter Kindergarten. Therefore, children on the cusp of that September 1st deadline with birthdays in April through August are often considered for Young Fives.

Age, however, isn't the only way to measure your child's Kindergarten readiness. There are many factors to consider when deciding to give your child a growth year, and each and every child is different. Kindergarten readiness means having well-developed preschool skills, to be not only academically ready, but also socially, emotionally and physically ready for the transition to Kindergarten.

Some tips/considerations that we like to give parents when they are considering Young Fives are:

- Talk with your child's current teacher. They are experts in the field of early childhood development and see your child in the classroom setting.
- Come see what our Young Fives program has to offer at our Parent Open House, or schedule an appointment to observe the classroom.
- Often times elementary schools offer registration, roundup or curriculum evenings in the spring where you can learn all about their Kindergarten program. Knowing what is expected of your child often provides clarity.
- Speak with another parent that chose Young Fives for their own child.
- Think long-term past the age of five and into the future of things like: upper elementary, middle and high school, driving, social decisions and when they will head away to college.
- Things have changed exponentially since you were in school. What is expected of children is not the same as it once was. Your Kindergarten experience is what children are now learning in preschool.
- All day everyday Kindergarten. Is your child ready to be away from you for five full days?
- You want your child's first school experience to be a positive one. Kindergarten sets the tone for the rest of their schooling.

If you are still struggling with your choice, please reach out to us. We are happy to assist and guide you with this important decision.