



## Essential School Readiness Checklist

As a parent, you want to give your child the best start possible. Below is a checklist of skills that will help your child succeed when they begin Kindergarten in Arlington Independent School District.\* Use this list to identify areas in which you can work with your child to ensure a successful start in school.

### Physical Well-Being and Motor Development

- Walking, running, climbing, dance are coordinated and flexible
- Throws, catches, and kicks a ball
- Manages small objects like clothing fasteners and small toy parts
- Independently performs tasks such as dressing, toileting, handwashing

### Social and Emotional Development

- Not easily defeated; has a "try again" attitude
- Understands the need for rules and limits
- Manages emotions before they get out of control
- Plays vigorously with energy and endurance
- Interacts easily with playmates
- Accepts adult guidance
- Willing to try new or challenging activities

### Language and Literacy Development

- Enjoys talking; uses lots of words
- Uses language to express needs, feelings, and to ask questions,
- Listens and sustains interest when communicating
- Shows awareness of word sounds such as rhymes and rhythms
- Enjoys storybooks and listening to stories
- Knows full name and recognizes own name in print

### Thinking and General Knowledge

- Recites numbers in sequence; counts objects correctly to 10
- Sorts objects by color, shape, or size
- Understands words such as: over, under, beside, above, small, large, heavy, light, more, less, none
- Exhibits family and cultural pride
- Shows respect for similarities and differences among people
- Exhibits curiosity about objects, events, and things in the environment
- Enjoys creative activities such as drawing, play dough, and block building
- Uses objects and playthings to pretend and to construct
- Attempts to copy patterns, shapes, and symbols in drawing
- Responds spontaneously to a variety of forms of music

\* Some children who experience various physical, emotional, and/or developmental challenges might not possess some of these skill sets by the time they enter Kindergarten. If you are concerned that your child is not able to perform some of the activities listed in this brochure, please dial 211. You will reach United Way staff who can connect you to resources for you and your child.