

# **I am ready for Kindergarten when...**

## **Self-Care and Motor Skills**

- I can use crayons, pencils, scissors and glue.
- I can button, zip, tie and Velcro.
- I can kick balls, hop on one foot and climb playground equipment.
- I can eat, wash hands, blow my nose and use the bathroom by myself.
- I talk to adults and ask for help if I need it.
- I take turns and share with others.
- I stay focused and pay attention for 10-15 minutes at a time.
- I work and play both independently and in a group.
- I can calm myself down when I get frustrated.

## **Language Development**

- I hear and understand the meanings of words, stories and songs.
- I use words to talk about thoughts, wants, needs and feelings.
- I use complete sentences and connect ideas together to make longer sentences.
- I can say or sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes.

## **Early Academics**

- I know how to use a book: where to start, which way to turn pages and that the pictures and words tell a story.
- I know the letters of the alphabet and can print my first name using upper and lower case letters.
- I can count 10 objects correctly.
- I know rhyming words like pat, hat, cat, bat.
- I know colors and shapes.

## **What is the Right Age for Kindergarten?**

Some parents wonder if they should wait an extra year before enrolling their child in kindergarten – especially if their child has a birthday late in the summer or autumn. To help you decide what is right for your child:

- Be aware of your child's skills and see how they align with the building blocks of kindergarten readiness (see other side of this document).
- Talk to your child's preschool teacher and your family doctor.
- Visit the kindergarten your child will be attending. Watch what the children are doing and imagine your child in that classroom.
- Talk to parents who have kindergarteners or children in elementary school.
- Trust your instincts.