

School Readiness

Building Strong Foundations for
Kindergarten

February 24, 2026





Welcome & Purpose

- . Our BIG Message:
 - . ✓ Every child develops at their own pace
 - ✓ School readiness is more than academics
 - ✓ Play and daily routines matter most



What is School Readiness?



- Social & emotional skills
- Independence & self-help
- Language & communication
- Early literacy & math foundations
- Physical development





Social Emotional Skills (The Foundation)

Children are learning to:

- Separate from caregivers
- Follow routines
- Take turns and share
- Express feelings
 - Manage frustration (with support)
- Listen to adults



ABC



Independence & Self- Help Skills

Kindergarten readiness includes:

- Using the bathroom independently
- Washing hands
- Putting on jackets/shoes
- Opening containers
- Cleaning up materials
- Asking for help



ABC



Language & Communication Skills

Children benefit from:

- Speaking in sentences
- Following simple directions
- Listening to stories
- Asking and answering questions





Early Literacy & Math Foundations

Early learning looks like:



Enjoying books and stories



Recognizing their name



Counting during play



Sorting and patterns



ABC



Early Literacy Expectations

By Kindergarten entry, many children:

- Recognize some letters (especially in their name)
- Attempt to write their name
- Understand how books work
- Recognize rhymes



*Aligned with standards from the New York State Education Department.



Physical Development

- Fine motor (drawing, cutting, holding crayons)
- Gross motor (running, climbing, balance)
- Sitting for short periods

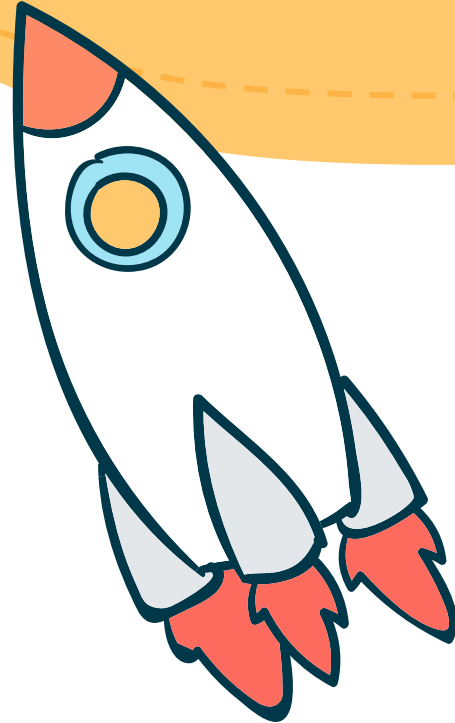


What Kindergarten in NYC looks like



Kindergarten in NYC:

- Full-day program
- Structured routines
- Literacy & math blocks
- Social learning
- Increasing independence



How we support School Readiness in our program

We support readiness by:

- Teaching routines daily
- Modeling emotional language
- Supporting conflict resolution
- Encouraging independence
- Building vocabulary
- Providing structured play

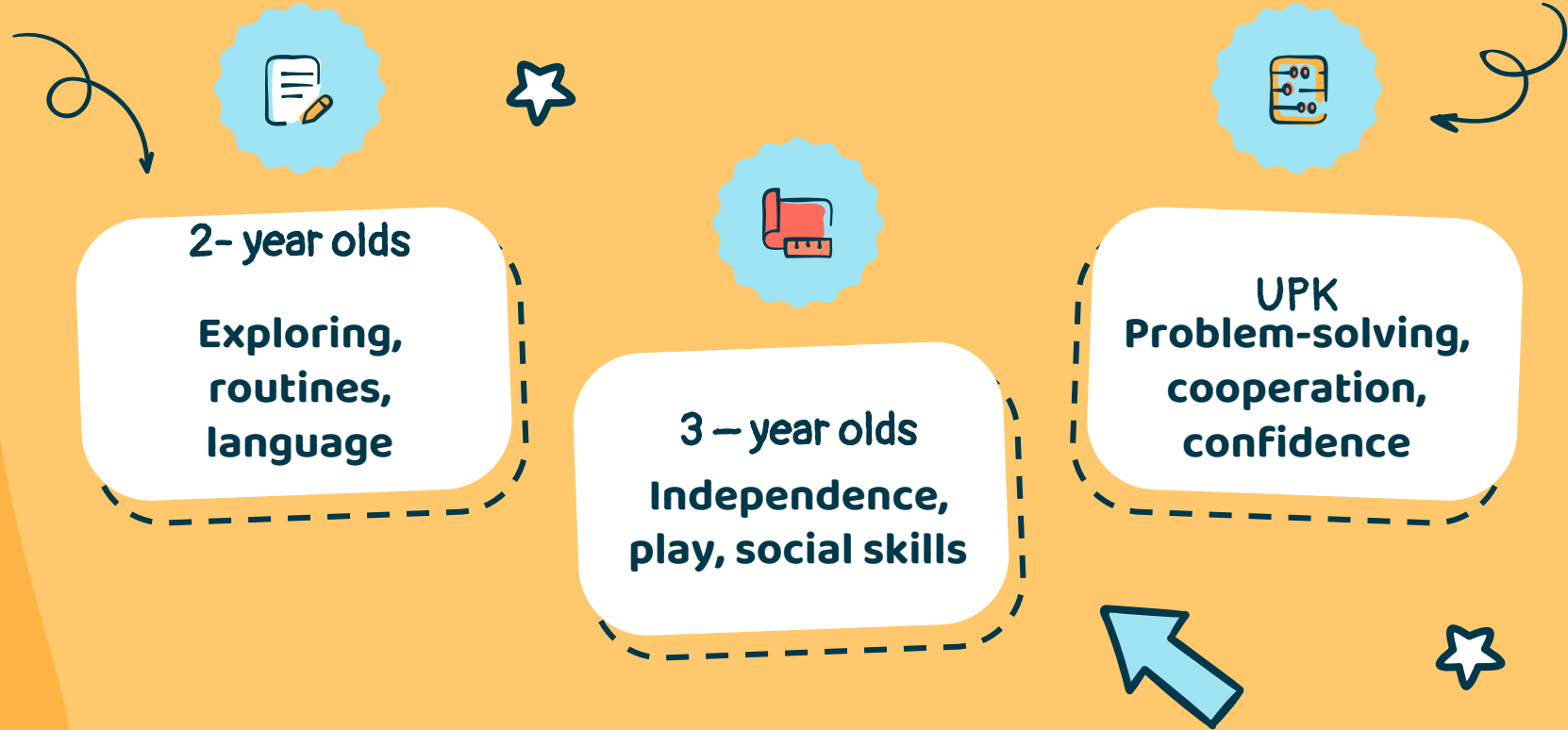
Everyday Ways to Build Readiness at Home

- Read daily (even 5–10 minutes)
- Talk during meals and errands
- Play board games
- Practice routines
- Encourage independence
- Let kids solve small problems

What NOT To Worry About

- Reading fluently
- Perfect handwriting
- Long attention spans
- Knowing everything on day one

Readiness Looks Different at Each Age



Final Thoughts

School Readiness=

**Confidence + Curiosity + Independence +
Resilience**