Checklist for Parents of Kindergarteners

These skills usually develop when a child is in kindergarten. Talk with your child's teacher if you have questions.

☐ My child listens carefully to books read aloud.

☐ My child knows the shapes and names for the letters of the alphabet and writes many uppercase and lowercase letters on his own.

☐ My child knows that spoken words are made of separate sounds.

☐ My child recognizes and makes rhymes, can tell when words begin with the same sound, and can put together, or blend, spoken sounds.

☐ My child can sound out some letters.

☐ My child knows that the order of letters in a written word stands for the order of sounds in a spoken word.

☐ My child knows some common words such as a, the, I, and you, on sight.

☐ My child knows how to hold a book, and follows print from left to right and from top to bottom of a page when she is read to.

☐ My child asks and answers questions about stories and uses what she already knows to understand a story.

☐ My child knows the parts of a book and understands that authors write words and text and illustrators create pictures.

☐ My child knows that in most books the main message is in the print, not the pictures.

☐ My child predicts what will happen in a story and retells or acts out stories.

☐ My child knows the difference between “made up” fiction and “real” nonfiction books and the difference between stories and poems.

☐ My child uses what he knows about letters and sounds to write words.

☐ My child writes some letters and words as they are said to her and begins to spell some words correctly.

☐ My child writes his own first and last name and the first names of some friends and family.

☐ My child plays with words and uses new words in her own speech.

☐ My child knows and uses words that are important to school work, such as the names for colors, shapes, and numbers.

☐ My child knows and uses words from daily life, such as street names and the names for community workers—teacher, mail carrier, etc.

http://ready2readmontana.org/