



Sussex School Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

At Sussex, kindergartners have direct instruction through a low student to teacher ratio and become explorers on campus and in the Missoula community. Working hand-in-hand with other parts of our program, they experience a vibrant curriculum that seeks to instill a love of learning, provide a sense of community, and support more physical and academic independence.

Below are some recommended behaviors and capacities for children entering Sussex School's kindergarten program.

- **Stays safe for self and others without one-on-one attention;**
- Speaks in full sentences and is understood by others most of the time;
- Uses words to express needs and wants;
- Understands concept of sharing;
- Looks after own eating, drinking, washing, dressing, and toileting needs (accidents are rare);
- Follows most rules and two-step directions;
- Separates from parent/caregiver willingly most of the time, after initial transition to school;
- Throws a ball, skips and climbs if physically able;
- Uses scissors to cut out basic shapes/straight line and holds a pencil with some control using tripod grip;
- Shares adult attention and waits for a turn;
- Follows instructions and carry through a task or activity with two-step instructions;
- Shows some degree of independence from security items or self-soothing behavior (thumb sucking; attachment to blanket, stuffed animal, etc.) during the school day;
- Plays well with others (not regularly the aggressor or victim; accepted by most other children);



- Enjoys listening to stories and looking at books (flips pages from left to right);
- Sits /listens for 10-15 minutes to a story;
- Recognizes and writes own name;
- Shows an interest in writing, even if letters/writing is pretend;
- Draws a variety of pictures to express different ideas;
- Recites alphabet, knows colors, counts from 1-10;
- Pays attention for at least 5 minutes to a task an adult is leading;
- Plays games and is able to accept losing at least some of the time;
- Recites name, address and phone number;
- Talks about things that are going to happen and things that have already happened.