

# Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Why does Foothill require readiness assessment for kindergarten? Isn't it enough that my child is five? These are some of the questions you may be asking yourself as you consider sending your child to Foothill.

The answer to the 1<sup>st</sup> question is simple: we want your child to be successful. The answer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question is no, it may not be enough that your child is five. A child's age can be calculated in two ways: chronological age and developmental age.

Chronological age is, of course, your child's age in years and months. Developmental age takes into account the child's functioning as a whole person: social, emotional, physical, and intellectual. Because all children develop at different rates, developmental age may not correspond with chronological age. For example, a child could have a chronological age of 5 but a developmental age of 4½. Such variation is completely normal, but the child might not be quite ready to be successful in kindergarten.

Children who are not developmentally ready for Kindergarten will not be successful because they are still developing the skills necessary for doing seatwork and interacting successfully with classmates.

The readiness assessment tests knowledge of letters and numbers, fine/gross motor skills, and ability to focus on a task. These scores are averaged together to determine if your child is developmentally ready for kindergarten. This assessment is NOT an intelligence test. A lower score simply means that your child needs a few more months to develop before he/she will be ready to be successful in school.

Success in kindergarten helps set the pattern for success throughout a child's school years; failure and frustration in kindergarten can set a pattern of failure and frustration in years to come. Having your child assessed for kindergarten readiness will help insure that he/she has a successful year.

Please feel free to contact me if you have more questions about Foothill's kindergarten readiness assessment.

Melinda Fletcher  
Foothill Elementary  
408-263-2568  
mfletcher@foothilladventistschool.org