Kindergarten is an exciting time of exploration for your child. Kindergarteners grow and develop in their own independence, academic knowledge, self-reliance and self confidence throughout the year.

Many parents are eager to start a kindergarten program with their child but may be uncertain as to the right time to begin. In California, in order to begin kindergarten, the child must be age five on/before September 1. If you have questions concerning your child's readiness skills in general, this readiness overview will be a helpful tool. A child should be proficient in most areas to start kindergarten.

**CONTENT AREAS**
* Numbers 1-7 are content specific areas that kindergarteners will be taught in school. If your child is confident in these areas, it will ease their transition into kindergarten.

1. Identifies some letters and letter sounds of the alphabet.
2. Recognizes his/her name in print.
3. Writes his/her first name.
4. Counts and identifies numbers to 10.
5. Identifies shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, etc.
6. Identifies basic colors: red, green, blue, orange, black, brown, white, etc.
7. Grips a pencil, crayon and marker correctly (with thumb and forefinger supporting the tip).

**DEVELOPMENTAL GROWTH AREAS**
* Numbers 8-22 are areas that kindergarten aged children need to be confident in prior to the first day of school.

8. Can trace or draw a line.
9. Uses scissors, glue, paint, and other art materials.
10. Tells first and last name when asked.
11. Speaks in complete sentences.
13. Does tasks when asked the first time.
14. Remains focused on an activity until it is completed. (i.e. drawing a picture, listening to a story).
15. Is beginning to demonstrate patience and self-control.
16. Communicates needs effectively.
17. Has the ability to play well with others. (shares, take turns, etc.)
18. Manages bathroom needs independently.
19. Can dress self (coat, socks, shoes, pants, shirt, etc.).
20. Is able to sit and listen to a story.

Be sure to read at least 20 minutes a day to your child!