



“Where Catholic tradition is combined with academic excellence.”

## Early Learners Readiness Checklist

Preschool helps children develop important social skills and get better at following instructions, which will be very useful in kindergarten and beyond.

Because very young children develop at such different rates, there isn't a checklist of must-have skills children need in order to start preschool. But there are some areas you can look at to see if your child is “ready for group learning”.

**Self-care** - We do require that all children be fully toilet trained. We do not allow pull-ups. Children must be able to clean themselves and take care of their own needs.

**Independence**- Children entering our early childhood program are encouraged to gain independence. We set routines, boundaries and encourage students to start completing self-care tasks on their own.

**Expressive/Communication Skills** – Readiness for school includes communication. Children should be able to express themselves in a way that an unfamiliar adult can understand. This may be limited when beginning school, however, language is a main focal point of our program. Our school staff encourages students to “use their words” in place of actions, behaviors, or crying to have their needs met.

**Self Control** – We stress safe behavior in our program. Children are taught how to handle situations like sharing, sitting safely on a carpet with peers and using walking feet in the classroom and hallway. We do not allow children to engage in unsafe behavior. We stress safe behavior in positive terms, such as “keep your feet on the floor”, sit during snack/lunch and sit on bottoms on chairs.

**Emotionally Ready** – It is difficult to leave parents for the first time. We offer a warm, caring environment that welcomes and cherishes each child. It is typical that a child may struggle with this at the beginning of the school year. A number of strategies are offered, and teachers are happy to work with parents through this time. Excessive crying will be communicated and handled on a case to case basis. A child who is emotionally ready is more eager to go to school and wants to make friends. They may not have the skills to make friends yet, but wanting to make them is a good start.

**Stamina** - Children need a lot of physical and mental energy for preschool. Students who aren't used to following a routine and being actively engaged can have a harder time adjusting to preschool.

*This same list will be used in the assessment that the teachers will perform when they meet with your child. Specific dates will be forthcoming, but beginning in March. Please call the Admissions Coordinator to schedule your child's visit after March 1<sup>st</sup>.*

### ***SJA Mission Statement***

*Rooted in the rich traditions of the Catholic Church, Saint John the Apostle Catholic School provides a Christ-centered learning environment where students are challenged academically, supported spiritually, and encouraged to embody high ethical standards essential to moral development.*

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