



Is Your Child Ready for School?

The Early School Readiness Assessment Tool

Ministry of Education: Republic of Vanuatu
Early Childhood Care and Education

Implementation of Early School Readiness Assessment Tool

In the following section you will find the letter to parents and the readiness assessment tool to be completed by parents with your support. Please make time to visit each parent or invite them to individually visit the Kindy. It is **essential** you ask the parent to come with their child. Each child is required to do two tasks during the assessment. Support the parents as they complete the readiness tool and be prepared to answer their questions. Keep the readiness tool results safe in each child's portfolio.

Instructions for teachers to use the letter and readiness assessment tool with parents:

1. Read aloud to parents the letter below and answer any questions.
2. Show the parents the Early School Readiness Assessment Tool. Help parents feel comfortable sharing information about their child. It is important that they do not feel they or their child is being judged by the answers they give.
3. Explain that the readiness tool has four parts.
4. Read aloud to parents all the information and statements on the tool. Write down their answers on the tool.
5. Follow the instructions below.
 - **Part One** lists 41 activities that a child may do. Read aloud each statement to the parent. Ask the parent to answer YES or TRYING or NOT YET. Based on what the parent says, put a checkmark under one of these three headings.
 - **Part Two** asks the child to identify different colors that you show. Make sure you have items available that represent each color such as colored paper or crayons. Record the child's responses where indicated.
 - **Part Three** asks the child to identify different numbers that you call out.
 - Make sure you have copied all the numbers onto a large piece of paper. Make the numbers large enough for the child to identify easily. Record the child's responses where indicated.
 - **Part Four** asks parents to comment on their child and sign off. As the parents speak, write down their comments on the page.
6. Analyze the results of the information you now have on the child. Use the Ministry of Education's Learning and Developmental Standards document to help you

Appendix A - Letter to Parents

LETTER TO PARENTS

Ministry of Education
Republic of Vanuatu

Dear Parents:

We value your child and want him or her to have a joyful, safe and motivating learning experience at school. The Kindergarten teacher plays an important part as a liaison between home and Kindi. It is important for parents to share information about their child so that the teacher can help your child settle in Kindi. Also, if something scares or worries your child, it can have an effect on your child's well-being. That is why we are asking you to complete the Early School Readiness Tool. The information that you provide will help the teacher understand what your child already knows and what your child needs to learn next. The information you provide is confidential and will only ever be shared with your child's teachers.

The Kindi teacher will help you to fill this form out and explain it to you. The teacher will also ask your child to complete a few tasks. After, the teacher will keep the form as a confidential record in your child's file folder called a portfolio. It will also contain samples of his/her work during the year that you can look at in order to see your child's progress.

If you have any positive comments or concerns you wish to share, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher. The teacher is there to support you and to make learning a fun, safe and motivating experience for your child.

Regards

Jennifer James
National Early Childhood Care and Education Coordinator

Ministry of Education

Appendix B - Early School Readiness Assessment Tool for Parents

Early School Readiness Assessment Tool For Parents

THIS FORM IS CONFIDENTIAL

When completed, it will be kept in the child's portfolio with a sampling of his/her work and other reporting tools used to gather and share information about your child.

Name of Child: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date Starting Kindergarten: _____

Gender: (please circle)

Male

Female

PART ONE: Activities

Topic: General Development

Child Activities	Yes	Trying	Not Yet
My child knows how old she/he is:			
My child can name body parts			
My child can talk about the weather: rainy, sunny, windy			
My child can use crayons			
My child plays with local toys and other materials we give him/her			
My child can ask questions about what she/he sees, hears, smells and touches			
My child loves to listen to music and songs			
My child loves to explore musical instruments or likes to imagine playing tam tam, guitar and other instruments			
My child plays with imaginary friends			
My child loves to play with messy activities like sand and water			

Topic: Physical Development

Activities	Yes	Trying	Not Yet
My child walks without help			
My child can climb a small stair and/or play on a monkey bar			
My child can run without assistance			
My child can catch a ball			
My child can kick a ball			
My child can play with small toys, blocks, cartons, shells and other objects			

Topic: Language Development

Activities	Yes	Trying	Not Yet
My child has started to explore making marks and drawings on paper			
My child has established handedness: right or left hand			
My child loves to listen to stories and knows custom stories and dances			
My child can is able to recall/recite a short poem or song			
My child uses sentences of four or more words			
My child joins in songs and rhymes			
My child understands the story read to him/her			
My child loves to look at books			
My child responds to his/her name			
My child enjoys being read to			
My child points to pictures in the book when asked questions, for example, where is the blue ball? She/he will point to the blue ball			

Topic: Social Development

Activity	Yes	Trying	Not Yet
My child relates well to other children			
My child relates well to adults they know			
My child is able to share with others			
My child is able to feed self			
My child is able to wash own hands and face			
My child is able to wipe and blow own nose			
My child is toilet trained			
My child can remove and put on clothing			
My child helps with tidying up toys, books, clothing and other items			
My child knows the name of things around the house			

Topic: Mathematical Development

Activity	Yes	Trying	Not Yet
My child understands simple comparisons like “big and small”			
My child can identify different shapes like circles and squares			
My child can recite numbers to 10			
My child can count objects to 10			

PART TWO: Identifying Colors

Show the child each color below using, for example, **different crayons** or **colored paper**. Ask the child to identify each color. Record the results below by putting a checkmark in the correct column.

Color	YES Able to identify color	NO Not able to identify color
RED		
BLUE		
GREEN		
YELLOW		
ORANGE		
BROWN		
BLACK		
WHITE		

PART THREE: Identifying Numbers

Show the child a **large piece of paper with the 12 numbers below written on it**. The numbers do not have to be in a straight line. Make sure the numbers are written randomly on the page. Make each number large enough for the child to easily identify it.

Call out all the numbers, one at a time. Have the child point to the number you called out. Record the child's responses where indicated by putting a checkmark in the correct column.

Number	YES Able to identify number	NO Not able to identify number
1		
7		
2		
5		
3		
6		
9		
4		
8		
10		
11		
12		

PART FOUR: Parent Comments

1. Please comment on your child's unusual talents, interests, and individual needs.
2. Is there any reason why this child should be screened for a possible special condition before entering school in the fall?
3. If yes, please say what it is.

Signature of Parent and Date: _____

Teachers Notes:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page below the 'Teachers Notes:' header. It is intended for the teacher to write their notes.