

United Way of the Wabash Valley's Kindergarten Readiness Report 2020-2021



Kindergarten readiness is determined by much more than just a child's age. United Way of the Wabash Valley's Success By 6 Impact Council understands that educational programs beginning in early childhood develop essential literacy, math, and social/emotional skills that prepare children for success in kindergarten and overall achievement in school and life. Without these skills, children begin school already behind, and though they can improve, most may never completely catch up to their classmates.




United Way
of the Wabash Valley


Ultimately, kindergarten readiness is about the entire community. Families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and other community members must work together to support the healthy development of our community's youngest members. For these reasons, UWWV supports collaborative initiatives to improve kindergarten readiness, in order to set each child, and our community as a whole, on a path toward success.


To evaluate the effectiveness of our community's work in helping children acquire the skills needed to be ready for kindergarten, each year UWWV assesses 15 proficiencies of incoming kindergarten students. Using this annual assessment, we can report our progress to the community and to our donors.




We are excited to release our second annual Kindergarten Readiness Report for the 2020-21 school year. This year, 96 teachers in 34 schools in our six-county service area took part in evaluating the skills of over 380 incoming kindergarten students. Here are highlights from our report:

 The average kindergarten readiness score for the 2020-21 school year was 78 on a 100-point scale, a small increase from the average score assessed during the 2019-20 school year. This score is used each year to track the overall trend of kindergarten readiness.

 Overall, skills such as identifying 13 letters by name and following multi-step directions received the lowest scores, while skills such as using words instead of force during conflict and grasping and using crayons, markers, and pencils received the highest scores.

 Approximately one-third of all students scored below the average kindergarten readiness score of 78, coinciding with the results of an independent assessment by kindergarten teachers.

 When comparing the average scores between children who did and did not attend Pre-K, it was found that those children who did not attend Pre-K scored 18 points lower than the average score for those children who did attend, demonstrating the significant impact of high-quality early childhood education.



There is much more to learn from the full report. The report describes our methods for conducting the assessment, offers a more comprehensive presentation of our findings, and compares this year's results to last year's. We encourage you to take a few minutes to read the report at uwwv.org/sb6.

Preparing our children for kindergarten is a smart investment in our community's future, resulting in more educated and skilled workers, higher wages in life, increased tax revenue, more effective public schools, improved public and personal health, and less crime. Kindergarten readiness today strengthens our workforce tomorrow, impacting economic growth and overall quality of life in our community. As United Way of the Wabash Valley pursues our bold goal of moving 10,000 families out of financial struggles and into stability, we look forward to bringing the community together to find lasting solutions that will improve the lives of our children and their families. Every child who is "kindergarten ready" builds hope to break our cycle of poverty and aid our struggling working families.

Full Report Available at uwwv.org/sb6