



# 5 Foundational Skills Every Child Needs to Learn in Kindergarten

We all want our children to have it better in life than we do. In a land of opportunity, we want our children to have the best possible chance at success. We want them to attend better schools and have higher earning careers. Who wouldn't? The question is, what will give them the best possible chance for success?

Discover the skills your child needs to be successful in school and in life with this free download:

## 01 To Read and Write in Cursive

Reading and writing are foundational skills for success in life, yet USA Today reports that **41 states no longer require handwriting instruction**. The myth is that activities such as cursive writing are monotonous and that changing times have made them obsolete, but cursive writing stimulates the development of fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and other brain and memory functions. Studies show that students who learn cursive first become better readers and thereby better learners. In addition, learning cursive writing teaches students to be careful, orderly, neat, clean, responsible, thorough, exacting, and persistent which helps build character.

"Two generations ago, 95% of people in America used handwriting. Today, most use keyboarding. Yet the skills of handwriting remain important. They are memory, focus, prediction, attention, sequencing, estimation, patience, and creativity."—Eric Jensen, *Teaching with the Brain in Mind*



## 02 To Obey and Respect Authority

Another foundational life skill is learning to obey and respect authority. Studies show that children growing up in environments that do not instill obedience to and respect for authority at an early age are **three times more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system by the time they reach age 30**.

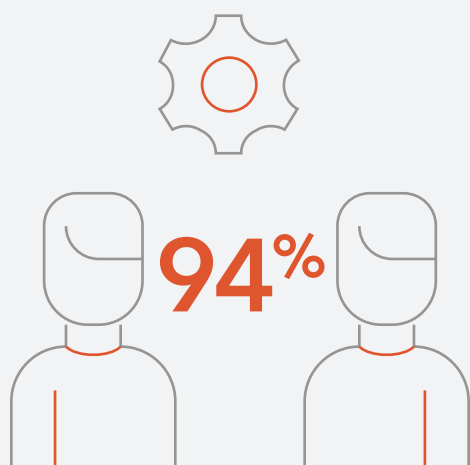
**The second half of a man's life is made up of nothing but the habits he has acquired during the first half.**

—Fyodor Dostovesky

## 03 To Achieve Comprehensive Development

Every child has physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs. When it comes to what parents consider to be the ultimate purpose of education, parents want more for their children than a list of accomplishments or path to wealth.

**The first five years of a child's life are fundamentally important.** They are the foundation that shapes children's future health, happiness, growth, development and learning achievement at school, in the family and community, and in life in general. Recent research confirms that the first five years are particularly important for the development of the child's brain, and the first three years are the most critical in shaping the child's brain architecture in all of these vital areas.



## 04 To Establish Christlike Character

The character we have as adults is primarily formed in our childhood. This is why parents often put an emphasis on religious training for their children. More than eight out of every 10 adults remembers consistently attending Sunday school or some other religious training before the age of 12.

The most selected goal of education by parents is to instill strong principles and values. In addition, **94% of parents place a high priority on schools intentionally developing children's character**.

## 05 To Elevate Patriotism

Patriotism is love of one's country. This love supplements the motivation of citizens to do their civic duty. Patriots are people who take pleasure in their national community and the land on which it resides. **Nine of 10 Americans agree with the statement "I am very patriotic."** It is in the heart of a child that the selflessness and sacrifice needed to serve something greater than ourselves is formed.

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."—Ronald Reagan

