

Preschool Assessment

STEPS AND OBJECTIVES



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Reading & Writing

44. Enjoys & values reading

Forerunner 1 - Shows interest in books

Forerunner 2 - Looks at books with adults

Forerunner 3 - Expresses pleasure with familiar books

Step 1 - Listens to stories being read

Step 2 - Participates in story time interactivity

Step 3 - Chooses to read on own; seeks information in books; see self as a reader

45. Demonstrates understanding of print concepts

Forerunner 1 - Notices & responds to pictures

Forerunner 2 - Finds own possessions when labeled with own photo & name

Forerunner 3 - Recognizes logos & pictures

Step 1 - Knows that print carries the message

Step 2 - Shows general knowledge of how print works

Step 3 - Knows each spoken word can be written down and read

46. Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet

Forerunner 1 - Participates in singing songs about the alphabet

Forerunner 2 - Shows awareness of letters in the environment

Forerunner 3 - Matches two letters that are alike

Step 1 - Recognizes & identifies a few letters by name

Step 2 - Recognizes & names many letters

Step 3 - Begins to make letter-sound connections

47. Uses emerging reading skills to make meaning from print

Forerunner 1 - Notices pictures in a book

Forerunner 2 - Reacts to pictures in a book

Forerunner 3 - Identifies pictures in a book

Step 1 - Uses illustrations to guess what the text says

Step 2 - Makes judgements about words & text by noticing features

Step 3 - Uses different strategies (known words, knowledge of letters & sounds, patterns in text to make meaning from print)

48. Comprehends & interprets meaning from books & other texts

Forerunner 1 - Relates to pictures in a book

Forerunner 2 - Imitates characters or actions in a book being read

Forerunner 3 - Relates story to self & shares information

Step 1 - Imitates act of reading in play

Step 2 - Compares & predicts story events; acts out main events of a familiar story

Step 3 - Retells a story including many details & draws connections between story events

49. Understands the purpose of writing

Forerunner 1 - Observes when others write

Forerunner 2 - Experiments with writing utensils

Forerunner 3 - Draws simple pictures

Step 1 - Imitates act of writing in play

Step 2 - Understands there is a way to write that conveys meaning

Step 3 - Writes to convey meaning

50. Writes letters & words

Forerunner 1 - Tries to use writing tools to make marks on paper

Forerunner 2 - Scribbles randomly on paper

Forerunner 3 - Scribbles may include some lines & other shapes

Step 1 - Uses scribble writing & letter-like forms

Step 2 - Writes recognizable letters, especially whose in own name

Step 3 - Uses letters that represent sounds in writing words

36. Makes believe with objects

Forerunner 1 - Plays purposefully with familiar play objects

Forerunner 2 - Imitates others' pretend play with familiar objects, with adult guidance

Forerunner 3 - Uses realistic props to imitate actions of others

Step 1 - Interacts appropriately with real objects or replicas in pretend play

Step 2 - Uses substitute objects or gestures to represent real objects

Step 3 - Uses make-believe props in planned & sustained play

37. Makes & interprets representations

Forerunner 1 - Interacts with adult to build or create something

Forerunner 2 - Uses materials to build or create something with adult gesture

Forerunner 3 - Uses materials to build or create something on their own

Step 1 - Draws or constructs & then names what it is

Step 2 - Draws or builds a construction that represents something specific

Step 3 - Plans then creates increasingly elaborate representations

Listening & Speaking

38. Hears & discriminates the sound of language

Forerunner 1 - Responds to sounds in the environment

Forerunner 2 - Listens attentively to familiar sounds

Forerunner 3 - Discriminates & identifies familiar sounds

Step 1 - Plays with words, sounds & rhymes

Step 2 - Recognizes & invents rhymes & repetitive phrases; notices words that begin the same

Step 3 - Hears & repeats separate sounds in words; plays with sounds to create new words

39. Express self using words & expanded sentences

Forerunner 1 - Uses gestures or sounds to communicate

Forerunner 2 - Uses single words or approximations to communicate

Forerunner 3 - Uses 2-word phrases

Step 1 - Uses simple sentences to express wants & needs

Step 2 - Uses longer sentences to communicate

Step 3 - Uses more complex sentences to express ideas & feelings

40. Understands & follows oral directions

Forerunner 1 - Responds to simple verbal directions that are combined with physical assistance

Forerunner 2 - Follows oral directions with adult modeling

Forerunner 3 - Follows one-step oral directions when given cues

Step 1 - Follows one-step oral directions

Step 2 - Follows two-step directions

Step 3 - Follows directions with more than two steps

41. Answers questions

Forerunner 1 - Answers simple questions by vocalizing; understands that a question requires a response

Forerunner 2 - Answers simple yes or no questions verbally

Forerunner 3 - Answers simple questions about a choice of two objects

Step 1 - Answers simple questions with one or two words

Step 2 - Answers questions with a complete thought

Step 3 - Answers questions with details

42. Asks questions

Forerunner 1 - Uses gestures or facial expressions to express needs

Forerunner 2 - Uses rising information to ask questions

Forerunner 3 - Uses some "wh" words to ask questions

Step 1 - Asks simple questions

Step 2 - Asks questions to further understand

Step 3 - Asks increasingly complex questions to further own understanding

43. Actively participates in conversations

Forerunner 1 - Participates in back & forth vocal play

Forerunner 2 - Responds to routine greetings

Forerunner 3 - Interacts verbally with others in non-routine ways

Step 1 - Responds to comments & questions from others

Step 2 - Responds to others' comments & in a series of exchanges

Step 3 - Initiates and/or extends conversations for at least four exchanges

29. Arranges objects in a series

Forerunner 1 - Puts 3 or more objects in a pile

Forerunner 2 - Puts 3 or more objects in a line

Forerunner 3 - Lines up or stacks 2 or 3 objects, from big to little

Step 1 - Notices when one object in a series is out of place

Step 2 - Figures out a logical order for a group of objects

Step 3 - Through trial & error, arranges objects along a continuum according to 2 or more physical features

30. Recognizes patterns & can repeat them

Forerunner 1 - Imitates simple sounds or movements made by an adult

Forerunner 2 - Places similar objects in a row

Forerunner 3 - Repeats a simple pattern modeled by an adult

Step 1 - Notices & recreates simple patterns with objects

Step 2 - Extends patterns or creates simple patterns of own design

Step 3 - Creates complex patterns of own design or by copying

31. Shows awareness of time concepts & sequence

Forerunner 1 - Anticipates the next step in a routine, with adult assistance

Forerunner 2 - Associates a familiar cue with a routine

Forerunner 3 - Understands what comes next in daily schedule

Step 1 - Demonstrates an understanding of the present & may refer to past & future

Step 2 - Uses past & future tenses & time words appropriately

Step 3 - Associates events with time-relates concepts

32. Shows awareness of position in space

Forerunner 1 - Experiments with objects by moving them

Forerunner 2 - Shows awareness of own body in space by orienting self in given space

Forerunner 3 - Follows positional directions modeled by adult

Step 1 - Shows comprehension of basic positional words & concepts

Step 2 - Understands & uses positional words correctly

Step 3 - Shows understanding that positional relationships vary with one's perspective

33. Uses one-to-one correspondence

Forerunner 1 - Puts objects in one container

Forerunner 2 - Places one object in each designated space, with adult guidance

Forerunner 3 - Places an object in each designated place, without adult guidance

Step 1 - Matches pairs of objects in one-to-one correspondence

Step 2 - Places objects in one-to-one correspondence with another set

Step 3 - Uses one-to-one correspondence as a way to compare 2 sets

34. Uses numbering & counting

Forerunner 1 - Understands the concept of "one"

Forerunner 2 - Understands the concept of "more"

Forerunner 3 - Counts to 5 by rote

Step 1 - Imitates counting behavior using number names

Step 2 - Counts correctly up to 5 or so using one number for each object

Step 3 - Counts to 10 or so connecting number words & symbols to the objects counted & knows the last number describes the total

35. Representation & Symbolic Thinking

8.1 Takes on pretend roles & situations

Forerunner 1 - Accepts roles chosen by others & plays

Forerunner 2 - Engages in pretend play when initiated by an adult

Forerunner 3 - Engages in pretend play

Step 1 - Performs & labels actions associated with play

Step 2 - Offers a play theme & scenario

Step 3 - Engages in elaborate & sustained role play

Preschool Assessment Steps and Objectives

Sense of Self

1. Shows Ability to adjust to new situations

Forerunner 1 - Watches classroom activities with family member

Forerunner 2 - Engages in classroom activities when family member is nearby

Forerunner 3 - Engages in classroom activities with support of familiar staff member

Step 1 - Treats arrival & departure as routine parts of the day

Step 2 - Accepts changes in daily schedule & routines

Step 3 - Functions with increasing independence in school

2. Demonstrates appropriate trust in adults

Forerunner 1 - Shows pleasure about the presence of a familiar adult

Forerunner 2 - Seeks familiar adult for comfort

Forerunner 3 - Shows preference for interacting with familiar adult

Step 1 - Shows confidence in parents' & teachers' abilities to keep him/her safe & healthy

Step 2 - Regards parents & teachers as resources & positive role models

Step 3 - Knows the difference between adults who can help & those who may not

3. Recognizes own feelings & manages them appropriately

Forerunner 1 - Shows feelings through gestures & facial expressions

Forerunner 2 - Recognizes feelings when they are labeled by an adult

Forerunner 3 - Labels own feelings with an adult's support

Step 1 - Identifies & labels own feelings

Step 2 - Is able to describe feelings & their cause

Step 3 - Is increasingly able to manage own feelings

4. Stands up for rights

Forerunner 1 - Shows a response to action of another child

Forerunner 2 - Expresses needs & desires verbally, with adult support

Forerunner 3 - Asserts own needs & desires verbally, with adult support

Step 1 - Physically or verbally asserts needs & desires

Step 2 - Asserts own needs & desires verbally without being aggressive

Step 3 - Takes action to avoid possible disputes over rights

Responsibility for self & others

5. Demonstrates self-direction & independence

Forerunner 1 - Makes a simple yes or no choice

Forerunner 2 - Engages in activity chosen by adult

Forerunner 3 - Chooses one activity out of choice of two & plays briefly on own

Step 1 - Chooses & becomes involved in one activity out of several options

Step 2 - Completes multiple tasks in a project of own choosing with some adult assistance

Step 3 - Carves out & completes own task without adult assistance

6. Takes responsibility for own well-being

Forerunner 1 - allows adult to attend to personal needs, such as dressing or washing hands

Forerunner 2 - Cooperates with adult attending to physical needs

Forerunner 3 - Uses self-help skills with adult assistance

Step 1 - Uses self-help with occasional reminders

Step 2 - Uses self-help skills & participates in chores without reminders

Step 3 - Understands the importance of self-help skills & their role in healthy living

7. Respects & cares for classroom environment & materials

Forerunner 1 - Uses & cares for materials with physical assistance

Forerunner 2 - Uses & cares for materials with adult modeling

Forerunner 3 - Uses & cares for materials, following adult's suggestion

Step 1 - Uses materials in appropriate ways

Step 2 - Puts away used materials before starting another activity

Step 3 - Begins to take responsibility for the care of the room environment

8. Follows classroom routines

Forerunner 1 - Joins routines with physical assistance

Forerunner 2 - Follows routines with adult modeling or other guidance

Forerunner 3 - Participates in classroom routines, following others

Step 1 - Participates in classroom activities with prompting

Step 2 - Understands & follows classroom procedures without prompting

Step 3 - Follows & understands the purpose of classroom procedures

9. Follows classroom rules

Forerunner 1 - Follows simple directions, sometimes with physical assistance

Forerunner 2 - Follows classroom rules when modeled by teacher or peers

Forerunner 3 - Follows simple rules & limits when verbal cues are combined with gestures

Step 1 - Follows classroom rules with reminders

Step 2 - Understands & follows classroom rules without reminders

Step 3 - Follows & understands reasons for classroom rules

Prosocial Behavior

10. Plays well with other children

Forerunner 1 - Takes an interest in other children at play

Forerunner 2 - Plays comfortably alongside another child

Forerunner 3 - Imitates what other children are doing, interacting occasionally

Step 1 - Works/plays cooperatively with one other child

Step 2 - Successfully enters a group & plays cooperatively

Step 3 - Maintains an ongoing friendship with at least one other child

11. Recognizes the feelings of others & responds appropriately

Forerunner 1 - Notices others' expressions of feelings

Forerunner 2 - Imitates expressions of feelings

Forerunner 3 - Uses simple labels to identify feelings

Step 1 - Is aware of other children's feelings & often responds in like manner

Step 2 - Shows increasingly awareness that people may have different feelings about the same situation

Step 3 - Recognizes what another person might need or want

12. Shares & respects the right of others

Forerunner 1 - Plays with familiar adult using same materials

Forerunner 2 - Participates in activity with other child using same materials

Forerunner 3 - Participates in simple turn taking with adult involvement

Step 1 - With prompts, shares or takes turns with others

Step 2 - Shares toys or allows turn in response to another child's request

Step 3 - Shares & defends the rights of others to a turn

13. Uses thinking skills to resolve conflicts

Forerunner 1 - Reacts to conflict with emotion

Forerunner 2 - Reacts to conflict but calms when adults provides solution

Forerunner 3 - Seeks teacher to resolve conflict

Step 1 - Accepts compromise when suggested by peer or teacher

Step 2 - Suggests a solution to solve a problem; seeks adult assistance when needed

Step 3 - Engages in a process of negotiation to reach a compromise

Gross Motor

14. Demonstrates basic locomotor skills

Forerunner 1 - Moves with adult support

Forerunner 2 - Moves independently for a short distance

Forerunner 3 - Moves with direction & beginning coordination, with some support

Step 1 - Moves with direction & beginning coordination

Step 2 - Moves with direction & increasing coordination

Step 3 - Moves with direction & refined coordination

15. Shows balance while moving

Forerunner 1 - Walks in intended direction when hand is held

Forerunner 2 - Walks forward in intended direction, without support

Forerunner 3 - Walks forward while straddling a line

Step 1 - Attempts to walk along a line, stepping off occasionally

Step 2 - Walks along wide beam such as edge of sandbox

Step 3 - Walks forward easily, & backward with effort, along a wide beam

16. Climbs up & down

Forerunner 1 - Crawls upstairs, with adult support

Forerunner 2 - Climbs upstairs, with support & by placing one foot beside the other on each stair, & slides or crawls down

Forerunner 3 - Climbs up & down stairs, with support

Step 1 - Climbs a short, wide ladder

Step 2 - Climbs up & down stairs & ladders, & around obstacles

Step 3 - Climbs & plays easily on ramps, stairs, ladders or sliding boards

17. Pedals & steers a tricycle

Forerunner 1 - Balances on wheeled vehicle while vehicle is being pushed by adult

Forerunner 2 - Maintains balance & keeps feet on pedals while vehicle is being pushed by adult

Forerunner 3 - Pedals vehicle forward & begins to steer, without assistance

Step 1 - Pedals in forward direction, steering around wide corners

Step 2 - Pedals & steers around obstacles & sharp corners

Step 3 - Rides with speed & control

18. Demonstrates throwing, kicking, & catching skills

Forerunner 1 - Plays with a large ball

Forerunner 2 - Attempts to direct a large ball's path

Forerunner 3 - Throws, catches, & kicks objects with some adult support

Step 1 - Throws, catches, & kicks objects with somewhat awkward movements

Step 2 - Throws, catches, & kicks with increasing control

Step 3 - Throws & kicks at target & catches with increasing accuracy

Fine Motor

19. Controls small muscles in hands

Forerunner 1 - Grasps objects with entire hand

Forerunner 2 - Grasps & releases toys intentionally

Forerunner 3 - Uses thumb & fingers to manipulate objects

Step 1 - Manipulates objects with hands

Step 2 - Manipulates smaller objects with increasing control

Step 3 - Manipulates a variety of objects requiring increased coordination

20. Coordinates eye-hand movement

Forerunner 1 - Reaches for desired objects

Forerunner 2 - Picks up objects & moves them

Forerunner 3 - Purposefully connects objects that go together, with adult assistance

Step 1 - Performs simple manipulations

Step 2 - Performs simple manipulations with increasing control

Step 3 - Manipulates materials in a purposeful way, planning & attending to detail

21. Uses tools for writing & drawing

Forerunner 1 - Notices & begins to try to use crayons & markers to make random marks

Forerunner 2 - Hold crayons or marker in fist & purposefully makes marks on paper using whole-arm movements

Forerunner 3 - Holds marker or crayon with fist & scribbles on paper, varying movements & watching the resulting line

Step 1 - Holds a marker or crayon with thumb & 2 fingers, makes simple strokes

Step 2 - Makes several basic strokes or figures; draws some recognizable objects

Step 3 - Copies & draws simple shapes, letters, & words including name

Learning & Problem Solving

22. Observes objects & events with curiosity

Forerunner 1 - Turns toward & follows something of interest

Forerunner 2 - Notices new materials in the environment

Forerunner 3 - Repeats manipulations of objects that arouse curiosity

Step 1 - Examines with attention to detail, noticing attributes of objects

Step 2 - Notices and/or asks questions about similarities and differences

Step 3 - Observes attentively & seeks relevant information

23. Approaches problems flexibly

Forerunner 1 - Manipulates an object

Forerunner 2 - Explores objects to see how the work

Forerunner 3 - Makes repeated attempts to accomplish a task

Step 1 - Finds multiple uses for classroom objects

Step 2 - Experiments with materials in new ways when first way doesn't work

Step 3 - Finds alternative solutions to problems

24. Shows persistence in approaching tasks

Forerunner 1 - Plays purposefully with toy for a brief period, with adult support

Forerunner 2 - Directs attention to one task at a time, with encouragement

Forerunner 3 - Stays involved in activity for short periods

Step 1 - Sees simple tasks through to completion

Step 2 - Continues to work on task even when encountering difficulties

Step 3 - Works on task over time, leaving & returning to complete it

25. Explores cause & effect

Forerunner 1 - Associates an action with an outcome

Forerunner 2 - Manipulates an object & reacts

Forerunner 3 - Repeats an action to get same effect

Step 1 - Notices & comments on effect

Step 2 - Wonders "what will happen if" & tests out possibilities

Step 3 - Explains plans for testing cause & effect, & tries out the ideas

26. Applies knowledge or experience to a new context

Forerunner 1 - Engages in everyday activities

Forerunner 2 - Recalls prior experience

Forerunner 3 - Relates classroom activities to own experiences

Step 1 - Draws on everyday experiences & applies this knowledge to similar situations

Step 2 - Applies new information or vocabulary to an activity or interaction

Step 3 - Generates a rule, strategy, or idea from one learning experience & applies it in a new context

Logical Thinking

27. Classifies Objects

Forerunner 1 - Recognizes familiar objects in environment

Forerunner 2 - Notices an item that is different in many respects from a group of objects

Forerunner 3 - Groups similar kinds of objects together

Step 1 - Sorts objects by one property such as size, shape, color or use

Step 2 - Sorts a group of objects by one property & then by another

Step 3 - Sorts objects into groups/subgroups & can state reason

28. Compares/Measures

Forerunner 1 - Locates own possessions from among those belonging to others

Forerunner 2 - Notices something new or different in many respects

Forerunner 3 - Notices objects that are similar in many ways

Step 1 - Notices similarities & differences

Step 2 - Uses comparative words related to number, size, shape, texture, weight, color, speed and volume

Step 3 - Understands/uses measurement words & some standard measurement tools

