

Table 225. Children's School Readiness Skills: 1993 and 2005

[In percent. For children 3 to 5 years old not yet enrolled in kindergarten. Based on the School Readiness Surveys of the National Household Education Survey Program; see source for details. See also Table 222]

Characteristic	Recognizes all letters		Counts to 20 or higher		Writes name		Reads or pretends to read storybooks		Has 3 to 4 skills	
	1993	2005	1993	2005	1993	2005	1993	2005	1993	2005
Total	21	26	52	61	50	59	72	70	35	42
Age:										
3 years old	11	16	37	46	22	32	66	67	15	24
4 years old	28	31	62	71	70	78	75	73	49	55
5 years old	36	44	78	81	84	91	81	72	65	66
Sex:										
Male	19	26	49	59	47	57	68	70	32	40
Female	23	26	56	64	53	60	76	71	39	45
Race/ethnicity:										
White, non-Hispanic	23	29	56	65	52	60	76	75	39	47
Black, non-Hispanic	18	24	53	69	45	61	63	67	31	44
Hispanic	10	16	32	42	42	51	59	55	22	26
Other	22	31	49	65	52	63	70	79	36	48
Mother's employment status: ¹										
Employed	23	28	57	65	52	62	75	72	39	46
Unemployed	17	18	41	49	46	53	67	61	29	32
Not in the labor force	18	24	49	57	47	55	68	69	32	39
Family type:										
Two parents	22	27	54	63	51	59	74	72	37	44
None or one parent	18	22	49	56	47	57	65	65	31	36
Poverty status: ²										
Above threshold	24	29	57	64	53	61	74	75	40	47
Below threshold	12	14	41	49	41	52	64	54	23	26

¹ Excludes children with no mother in the household and no female guardian. ² Children are considered poor if they lived in households with incomes below the poverty threshold which is a dollar amount determined by the federal government to meet the household's need, given its size and composition.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, *Home Literacy Activities and Signs of Children's Emerging Literacy*, 1993, NCES 2000-026, November 1999; and the Early Childhood Program Participation Survey, National Household Education Surveys Program, 2005, unpublished data. See Internet site <<http://nces.ed.gov/nhes>>.