

Table 50. Percentage distribution of kindergarten teachers and parents indicating the importance of various factors for kindergarten readiness, by control: Fall 1998

Teacher and parent perception of student skills	Perception of importance for parents and teachers of public kindergarten children					Perception of importance for parents and teachers of private kindergarten children				
	Not important	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential	Not important	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kindergarten teachers¹										
Can count to 20 or more	12 (0.7)	38 (1.3)	36 (1.2)	11 (0.7)	2 (0.3)	10 (2.0)	37 (3.1)	34 (3.0)	12 (2.0)	6 (2.3)
Knows most of the alphabet	9 (0.7)	30 (1.2)	43 (1.2)	14 (0.9)	4 (0.5)	6 (1.4)	26 (2.8)	41 (2.7)	19 (2.6)	8 (2.3)
Takes turns and shares	# (0.1)	1 (0.2)	25 (1.1)	58 (1.4)	16 (1.0)	# (0.3)	1 (0.4)	25 (2.5)	58 (3.2)	16 (2.4)
Sits still and pays attention	1 (0.2)	4 (0.4)	36 (1.4)	47 (1.3)	13 (0.8)	1 (0.5)	3 (1.1)	35 (3.8)	52 (3.1)	10 (2.7)
Is able to use pencils and paint brushes	4 (0.5)	14 (0.9)	47 (1.3)	29 (1.5)	6 (0.5)	5 (1.4)	12 (2.2)	42 (3.1)	32 (3.3)	9 (2.5)
Kindergarten parents²										
Can count to 20 or more	1 (0.1)	6 (0.3)	30 (0.6)	46 (0.7)	17 (0.4)	2 (0.2)	9 (0.6)	33 (1.0)	35 (1.1)	21 (1.0)
Knows most of the alphabet	1 (0.1)	4 (0.3)	25 (0.6)	51 (0.8)	19 (0.4)	1 (0.2)	7 (0.6)	29 (1.1)	41 (1.0)	22 (1.0)
Takes turns and shares	# (0.0)	# (0.0)	5 (0.2)	63 (0.6)	32 (0.6)	# (0.0)	# (0.1)	7 (0.5)	55 (1.0)	38 (0.9)
Sits still and pays attention	# (0.0)	1 (0.1)	14 (0.5)	60 (0.6)	25 (0.5)	# (0.1)	2 (0.3)	22 (1.1)	51 (0.9)	25 (0.8)
Is able to use pencils and paint brushes	# (0.1)	2 (0.2)	23 (0.5)	53 (0.7)	21 (0.4)	# (0.1)	3 (0.4)	27 (1.0)	43 (1.1)	26 (0.9)

#Rounds to zero.

¹Estimates pertaining to teachers are based on the responses of a nationally representative sample of kindergarten children's teachers.

²Estimates pertaining to parents are based on the responses of a nationally representative sample of kindergarten children's parents.

NOTE: Standard errors appear in parentheses. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99, (ECLS-K), fall 1998, unpublished tabulations. (This table was prepared September 2001.)