

# Table 229. Children's School Readiness Skills: 1993 and 2005

[In percent. For children 3 to 5 years old not yet enrolled in kindergarden. Based on the School Readiness Surveys of the National Household Education Survey Program; see source for details. See also Table 226]

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
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>
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 <sup>1</sup> :										
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: <sup>2</sup>										
Above threshold . . . . .	24	29	57	64	53	61	74	75	40	47
Below threshold . . . . .	12	14	41	49	41	52	64	54	23	26

<sup>1</sup> Excludes children with no mother in the household and no female guardian. <sup>2</sup> 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1999; and the Early Childhood Program Participation Survey, National Household Education Surveys Program, 2005, unpublished data.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>>.