

Table 230. Children's School Readiness Skills: 1993 to 2007

[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 229]

Characteristic	Recognizes all letters		Counts to 20 or higher		Writes name		Reads or pretends to read storybooks		Has 3 to 4 skills	
	1993	2007	1993	2007	1993	2007	1993	2005	1993	2005
Total	21	32	52	63	50	60	72	70	35	42
Age:										
3 years old	11	17	37	47	22	34	66	67	15	24
4 years old	28	38	62	73	70	76	75	73	49	55
5 years old	36	59	78	84	84	88	81	72	65	66
Sex:										
Male	19	31	49	61	47	56	68	70	32	40
Female	23	33	56	65	53	63	76	71	39	45
Race/ethnicity:										
White, non-Hispanic	23	36	56	69	52	64	76	75	39	47
Black, non-Hispanic	18	37	53	69	45	58	63	67	31	44
Hispanic ¹	10	15	32	41	42	49	59	55	22	26
Other	22	39	49	69	52	61	70	79	36	48
Mother's employment status: ²										
Employed	23	34	57	66	52	63	75	72	39	46
Unemployed	17	14	41	42	46	41	67	61	29	32
Not in the labor force	18	31	49	60	47	58	68	69	32	39
Family type:										
Two parents	22	33	54	64	51	62	74	72	37	44
None or one parent	18	27	49	57	47	52	65	65	31	36
Poverty status: ³										
Above threshold	24	35	57	67	53	64	74	75	40	47
Below threshold	12	21	41	48	41	46	64	54	23	26

¹ Persons of Hispanic origin may be any race. ² Excludes children with no mother in the household and no female guardian. ³ 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1999; the Early Childhood Program Participation Survey, National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), 2005, unpublished data; and the NHES School Readiness Survey, 2007, unpublished data; <<http://nces.ed.gov/nhes>>.