

*Educating the whole person, one student at a time*

## Is Your Child Ready for PreK?

Determining whether or not your child is ready for preschool is a big decision, but there are some key indicators explained below that can help you to decide.

### 1. How old is your child?

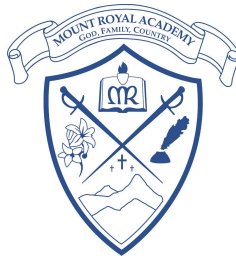
- If your child is 3 years old on or before June 1, they are eligible for enrollment in PreK.
- If your child is 5 years old on or before September 30, they are eligible for enrollment in the Kindergarten program.

### 2. Is your child fully potty trained?

- Accidents are understandable, particularly at the beginning of the school year as the child transitions into the school routine.
- However, if a child has an accident 1 or 2 times per week consistently after the transition period, they are not considered “potty trained” yet.
- Daytime use of pull-ups would be considered not fully potty trained.
- Fully potty trained means independent with all toileting needs, including using toilet paper. Newly accepted students must be fully potty trained by June 1.
- Teachers will gladly assist a child who has had an accident, but we are not equipped to change diapers or help a child with toilet paper on a regular basis.
- Potty trained children are able to pull pants and underwear up and down on their own and are independent when cleaning themselves, in normal circumstances.
- Children should be able to wash their hands independently, although they may need reminders.

### 3. Can your child make sure their needs are met?

- Children should be able to speak clearly enough that other people can understand what they are saying.
- Children should be able to put on their coat and shoes and fasten their pants independently.
- Children should be comfortable telling an adult that they need assistance.



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4. Is your child able to follow simple instructions?

Children should be able to follow simple directions about:

- Where to put their belongings
- Where and when to move about the classroom
- Where and when to transition from activity to activity

PreK classes are designed to be gentle introductions to the academic environment. Small children learn the routines of working in a group setting: sharing, waiting their turn, walking in a line, and following instructions, with tender, loving encouragement. Children are not expected to be entirely self-sufficient upon entering the classroom, but self-sufficiency will be taught and encouraged, particularly by the end of PreK.

A note about separation anxiety:

Many, if not most, children will shed a few tears upon the initial separation from their parents in the morning. Additionally, when students encounter a sibling on the playground, a similar reaction can occur. However, this is normally short-lived and will resolve itself as children acclimate to the school routine and environment. This is not an indication that your child is not ready for PreK.

If the child persists with these behaviors after a normal “transition” period, a meeting with parents and administrators may be in order.

[Here is an article](#) which expands upon the idea of readiness for preschool and offers suggestions to help your child prepare.