Kindergarten Readiness - Checklists

The following list may help to identify any problems that need to be addressed:

Checklist One: Vision
☐ Does the child have trouble coordinating body movements when jumping, climbing or marching?
☐ Does the child frequently fall over, or bump into things?
☐ Does the child appear awkward or clumsy?
☐ Does the child have trouble matching colours?
☐ Does the child hold toys and books too close to the face?
☐ Does the child tilt the head to one side when looking at something?
☐ Is the child accident-prone?
☐ Does the child get headaches when doing close work?

All of these behaviours are indicators that a child may have problems with vision.

Checklist Two: Hearing
☐ Does the child appear to be daydreaming a lot?
☐ Does the child have a short attention span?
☐ Does the child have trouble following directions?
☐ Does the child speak too loudly or too softly?
☐ Does the child turn his/her head to one side when listening?
☐ Does the child mispronounce certain sounds when speaking?

If the child displays most of these behaviours then there may be a hearing problem present.

Checklist Three: Motor
Can the Child:-
☐ Jump with two feet together?
☐ Climb a climbing frame?
☐ Understand concepts of up, down, inside, outside, on top of?
☐ Name body parts?
☐ Use construction toys such as Duplo?
☐ Do up buttons?
☐ Hold a pencil correctly?
☐ Complete a simple puzzle?
☐ Cut out a simple shape with scissors?
☐ Has the child developed a preferred hand for writing?

If a child cannot perform the above gross and fine motor tasks by school age, he/she may have learning difficulties. Learning to read and write is a developmental process, and before these skills can be acquired, children must have an understanding of how to coordinate their bodies. There is a strong connection between physical skills and academic ability.