

Preparing for **Preschool**

Practical Life

We ask families considering WEM for our early childhood programs to practice the following “practical life skills” with your child in preparation for their first school experience. This list is an excellent tool to track your child’s progress towards school readiness.

Eating & Drinking

When school begins in September, please send your child with food and containers that are easy for them to open and close. Please send your child’s lunch with icepacks to keep foods cold or a thermos to keep foods warm. Children who attend extended day programs should have extra foods sent in their lunch to eat after school.

<i>Does your child know how to...</i>	Yes	No
Feed him or herself using a spoon and/or fork?		
Take appropriate size bites of food?		
Safely chew their food adequately before swallowing?		
Clean up a food or beverage spill?		

Potty Training & Toileting

Children must be potty trained before they begin attending school at WEM. We understand that in a new environment accident “may” occur as children learn new routines, however, if after a period of one month a child continues to have accidents more than twice a week, it may be an indicator they are not developmentally ready for school.

<i>Does your child know how to...</i>	Yes	No
Use the toilet independently without help?		
Flush the toilet after use?		
Use appropriate amount of toilet paper after toileting?		

Checklist continues on page 2 with Clothing

Clothing

Children who are still learning to tie, button, and zip their clothing and shoes independently should be sent in shoes and clothing easy for them to manipulate such as Velcro or slip-on shoes, and bottoms with elastic waistbands.

<i>Does your child know how to...</i>	Yes	No
Tie their shoes?		
Zip-up and button their coat and pants?		
Change their clothes independently if they have a potty accident?		

Communication

<i>Does your child know how to...</i>	Yes	No
Speak so they can be understood by others?		
Express their thoughts and needs easily?		
Ask for help?		
Follow simple, age-appropriate directions?		