



THE READY FAMILY

An Important Component of Preparing a School-Ready Child

What is school readiness?

School readiness involves more than just children. In the broadest sense, school readiness is about children, families, early environments, schools, and communities. Children are not innately “ready” or “not ready” for school. Their skills and development are strongly influenced by their families and through their interactions with other people and environments before coming to school.¹

A family that is ready for their child to start school **supports their child’s learning by preparing for kindergarten, reads daily with their child, and maintains a positive home-to-school connection.**

School readiness occurs when children have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in primary school, later learning, and life. Physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development are essential ingredients of school readiness. School readiness refers not only to ready children, but to ready communities, families, and schools.²



Preparing for Kindergarten

A ready family encourages skills in preliteracy skills including speaking, listening and thinking. A ready family also teaches routines to prepare their child for a smooth transition to kindergarten.

- How to Prepare your Family for Kindergarten
- Get Ready for Kindergarten! Activity Calendar for Families
- Transitioning to Kindergarten
- Questions that Lead to Thinking



Reading Together

A ready family reads daily to their child. Reading together improves a child’s vocabulary and oral language skills, which are important for learning to read. Reading together also promotes a love of books.

- Dialogic Reading: An Effective Way to Read to Preschoolers
- Notable Books for Younger Readers
- Just Take 20: Make Reading a Regular Routine!



Connecting Home and School

A ready family supports learning at home by providing a positive, literacy-rich environment and opportunities to practice skills that were taught in school. A ready family stays connected to school by volunteering and attending meetings and events at school.

- Infographic: Supporting Your Child’s Literacy Development at Home
- Video Reading Rockets: The Home Front
- Literacy Begins at Home (Pre-K-3)
- Kid Zone! A Free Virtual Play Space for Kids and Families to Develop Literacy
- Empowering Parents



Educator Resources

- Ready at Five
- Family Engagement in Transitions: Transition to Kindergarten
- Early Childhood Transitions: Supporting Children and Families
- Transition to Kindergarten Resources from ECLKC
- Parent Engagement
- Engaging Families in Early Childhood Education
- Ready Families: Strategies for Readiness
- Infographic: Succeeding in School: Essential Features of Literacy Development

This document was developed by a collaborative group of representatives of the ten Regional Educational Laboratories throughout the United States.



Information and materials for this presentation are supported by IES/NCEE’s Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast at Florida State University (Contract ED-IES-17-C-0011) as resources and examples for the viewer’s convenience. Their inclusion is not intended as an endorsement by the Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast or its funding source, the Institute of Education Sciences.

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¹ Stedron, J. & Berger, A. (2010). NCSL Technical report: State approaches to school readiness assessment. Denver, CO: National Conference of State Legislators <http://www.ncsl.org/documents/Educ/KindergartenAssessment.pdf>

² Maxwell, K., & R.M. Clifford. 2004. Research in review: School readiness assessment. *Young Children* 59 (1): 42–46.

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