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 community that is ready to support its children ensures access to health care, provides quality childcare and early education, and invests in resources for families.2

Ensures Access to Health Care
A ready community helps ensure that children have access to health care, immunizations, and nutrition. Meeting these basic needs enhances engagement in learning and fosters better attendance at school.

• Making the Link Between Health and School Readiness
• Health Services that Impact School Readiness
• Children’s Access to Health Care
• Healthy Children are Ready to Learn

Invests in Resources for Families
A ready community invests in resources and activities that support families and promote school readiness. It is critical that communities support schools so they are ready to meet the needs of children. It is important for communities to support families so that children enter school with a firm foundation for learning.

• Strengthening Developmental Screening for Children Involved in Child Welfare Systems
• A Two-Generation Human Capital Approach to Anti-Poverty Policy
• Toolkit for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners
• Family and Community Partnerships for School Readiness
• Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children

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