



THE READY COMMUNITY

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 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.**³



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



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](#)



Provides Access to Quality Childcare and Early Education

A ready community helps ensure that families have access to quality childcare and early education. A quality early education program supports a child's development physically, socially, emotionally, in language and literacy, and in thinking skills.

- [Supporting Working Families with Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education](#)
- [Defining and Measuring Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education \(ECE\): A Guidebook for Policymakers and Researchers](#)
- [The Importance of Early Childhood Education](#)

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In addition, the instructional practices and assessments discussed or shown in this presentation are not intended to mandate, direct, or control a State's, local educational agency's, or school's specific instructional content, academic achievement system and assessments, curriculum, or program of instruction. State and local programs may use any instructional content, achievement system and assessments, curriculum, or program of instruction they wish.

¹ Maxwell, K., and Clifford, R.M. (2004) *Research in review: School readiness assessment*. Young Children Volume 59(1): 42-46.
² Head Start, <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness>, retrieved January 12, 2018.
³ Emig, C. (2000). School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children. Child Trends Research Brief.

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