

Is Your Child Ready To Learn? Preschoolers aged 3-6: Information for Parents and Caregivers

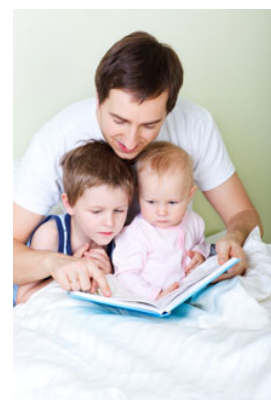


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You can encourage your child's readiness to learn in the following ways:

Literacy Skills

You can help your child by:

- Helping your child recognize letters and words on signs and labels
- Providing lots of opportunities to use writing materials like paper and crayons
- Cuddling and reading together everyday
- Getting a library card
- Asking questions about the story you are reading
- Using the dictionary so that the child sees you learning about new words
- Always making reading a happy experience

Physical Development and Well-Being

You can help your child by:

- Encouraging your child to get dressed on their own
- Encouraging your child to use the bathroom independently
- Involving your child in preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Playing inside and outside and finding activities you enjoy as a family
- Making sure your child get enough sleep
- Getting his immunization (shots) on time
- Having a smoke free environment

Language and Communication Skills

You can help your child by:

- Talking about what your child needs
- Encouraging your child to use “I” messages (“I feel angry when you take my toy”)
- Giving your child clear and simple instructions
- Asking your child questions that encourage thinking and decision-making
- Talking and putting words to how your child feels

Social and Emotional Development

You can help your child by:

- Helping them learn to play, share and make new friends
- Giving them time to play on his/her own
- Encouraging them to make some decisions
- Giving your child a few easy chores
- Showing your child how to take care of their things
- Showing them how to calm down when you get upset (take a break, talk it through)
- Focusing their attention when needed
- Showing a positive attitude toward school

Learning (Cognitive) Skills

You can help your child by:

- Showing your child that it is exciting to learn new things
- Teaching your child their full name, address and phone number
- Encouraging your child to solve simple problems
- Practicing sorting socks, utensils, colours and shapes
- Following a recipe, measuring and pouring
- Playing with your child and following their lead
- Encouraging them to play with many toys and materials (blocks, play dough, fingerpaint)

Remember... You are your child’s first and most important teacher!

- Your child has learned and will continue to learn an incredible amount from you and from all the experiences he/she has had.
- There are services and programs available in the community to support early learning in partnership with you.
- Parent and community involvement in schools improves student success.
- Be involved by communicating , participating and supporting your child’s school.
- It takes a community to raise a child.

About this Document

Written by members of the Best Start Network of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Ontario, Canada.

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