

**Every
Year**

4 in 10

children

...walk into your kindergarten already **1 to 3 years behind.**

**There is something
you can do about it.**

Preventing the Kindergarten Readiness Gap

From the first day of kindergarten to the last day of high school, a six-year range in student academic achievement persists. Starting one, two and up to three years behind nearly ensures that students will stay behind. These children also have less than a six percent chance of enrolling in a four-year college. Meanwhile, districts spend almost twice as much per student on those that are below grade level throughout a child's education each year through grade 12.

**A one-day seminar coming to your area sponsored by
the National Children's Reading Foundation**

SPRING 2008

Presented with support from:



Here's What You'll Learn During this Interactive Seminar

4 in 10 students enter kindergarten 1 to 3 years behind: the impact, cost and a solution

Session One: 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Impact: Connecting kindergarten and college

Forty percent of kindergarteners arrive on the first day of school with skills up to three years behind their classmates. Research shows that students who start behind typically remain below grade level throughout their school years. Of those in each class cohort, fewer than six percent from the bottom half of their class enroll in a four-year college. Learn how focusing on kindergarten starting points – as well as graduation ending points – can thwart this predictable pattern.

Session Two: 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Cost: Pennies spent on kindergarten readiness save dollars in remediation

Remediation is expensive and ineffective. In general, school districts spend twice as much on students who are behind as those who are at or above grade level. The primary impact of poverty on education occurs birth to five, where virtually all

of the achievement gap is created. After the initial starting points are established in school, students in all quartiles learn at similar rates. Research shows that during the early years a child learns at a speed that is unmatched the rest of life. The kinds and frequency of interactions at home shape all future learning. This session discusses how to reduce the emotional toll and financial impact of catching-up students who start behind.

12:15 to 1 p.m. **Catered lunch provided on-site**

Session Three: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Solution: Getting young children ready for kindergarten

What are the skills of a typical five-year-old who is ready for a successful and happy school year? Which skills are most predictive of continued success in school, specifically learning to read and do math at grade level by fourth grade? Parents can teach these skills at home using simple and fun activities. Preschool programs for children most at risk fill a vital role, yet not all families need this

level of support. Parent training costs about \$200 a year per child compared to \$6,000 or more for half-day preschool. A brief overview of the READY! for Kindergarten program will highlight its curriculum, activity materials, program administration, funding and research. Learn how to reach out to parents and primary caregivers during the critical early learning years.



“The task is not so much to see what no one yet has seen, but to think what nobody has yet thought about that which everyone sees.”

*- Arthur Schopenhauer,
19th century philosopher*



Assuring normal growth before kindergarten is thoughtful, powerful, proactive and positive.

Many districts find the READY! for Kindergarten program a simple, powerful and effective way to address the needs of families with children ages birth to five. Parents attend free, 90-minute classes, three times a year. They receive research-based training, targets, and tools to prepare their child to start kindergarten with skills that correlate with future school success. The model shares engaging activities that develop a child's basic literacy, math, and social-emotional skills.

Parents learn to blend simple educational activities into their daily routines from the day their baby comes home from the hospital to the day he or she heads out for kindergarten.

READY! for Kindergarten, successfully piloted as a program of the Kennewick School District and the National Children's Reading Foundation, is now offered in over 50 school districts from Oklahoma City to British Columbia.

“Every year, a new wave of kindergarten students hit the ‘beaches’ of your district. Forty-percent are 1 to 3 years below grade level. This will happen every single year, until ...



“Evolving research in early learning shows startling correlations to later academic achievement,” says Lynn Fielding, seminar presenter. “At every point in K-12, our highest predictor of student achievement is the prior year’s achievement. When students enter kindergarten three years behind, they must make 16 years of academic growth in 13 years to graduate at grade level, let alone be ready for college. And not surprisingly, the majority of students who enroll in four-year universities come from the top 25 percent of their high school class. Choosing to fund parent programs that keep children from falling behind from birth to five is far more cost effective than solely trying to catch them up K-12.”

... policy makers realize the power they have to prevent children from entering kindergarten behind.”

- Lynn Fielding

A Location Near You

April 21 Omak
Best Western Peppertree Inn

April 22 Yakima
Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center

April 23 Vancouver, WA
Red Lion Hotel at the Quay

April 24 Portland
Red Lion Hotel - Convention Center

April 25 Pendleton
Red Lion Hotel

April 28 Spokane
Red Lion Hotel at the Park

April 29 Sandpoint
Schweitzer Mountain Resort

April 30 Lewiston
Red Lion Hotel

May 5 Bellevue
Red Lion Hotel

May 6 Olympia
Red Lion Hotel

May 7 Bellingham
Hotel Bellwether

May 8 Vancouver, BC
Georgian Court Hotel

Seminar Cost

**Pre-registration
deadline extended**

**\$145 before April 20
\$160 after April 20**

Space permitting, walk-ins \$160

Five clock-hours available for \$10.
(available only at state of Washington seminars)

Cost includes book *Delivering on the Promise*, wall chart of Learning Targets from Birth to Age 5, *READY! Overview* CD, and lunch

Fielding is a national presenter on educational issues. For the past six years, he has served as a director of the Northwest Evaluation Association, which provides on-line assessments to 3,000 school districts nationwide. He has served as a director of Kennewick Schools for the past 21 years, as well as eight years as a director of the Washington State School Directors Association. He co-founded the National Children’s Reading Foundation and serves as its Director of Strategic Initiatives. He spearheaded the development of the *READY! for Kindergarten* program and has co-authored three books on educational reform: *The 90% Reading Goal*, *Delivering on the Promise* and *Annual Growth, Catch-up Growth*. Fielding is an attorney with an advance tax degree from Georgetown University.

Preventing the Kindergarten Readiness Gap

3 Ways To Register:

- 1) Go online at www.readingfoundation.org
- 2) Mail this form to 2527 W. Kennewick Ave., #313, Kennewick, WA 99336
- 3) Fax this form to (509) 783-5237 Attn: Amy

Seminar Location: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Organization: _____ Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Email Address: _____

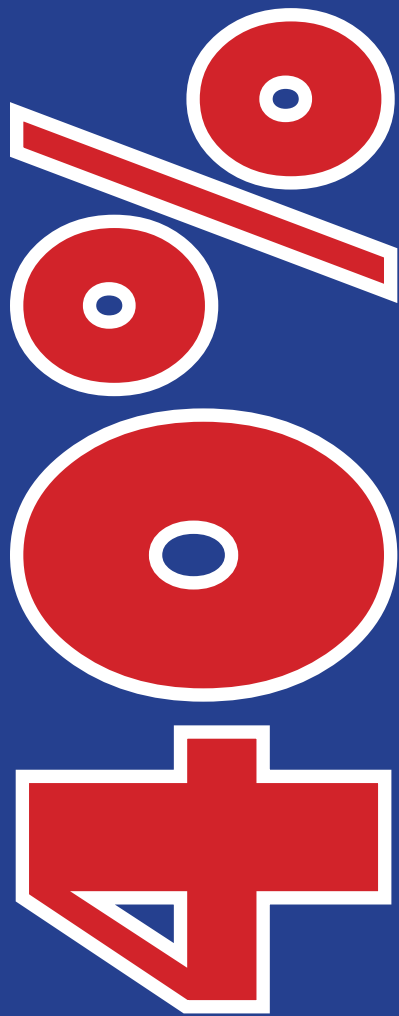
Billing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Circle method of payment: Check P.O.# _____ Credit Card Credit Card Type: VISA MC

Credit Card Number: _____ Card Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date of Signature: _____

**Please submit a separate form for each individual. Registration fees are only refundable if the class is cancelled.
Please make checks payable to National Children’s Reading Foundation.
Questions? Contact Amy at (509) 735-9405 or amy@readingfoundation.org**



...of **children** walk into your kindergarten already **1 to 3 years behind.**

Preventing the Kindergarten Readiness Gap A One-Day Seminar Coming to Your Area



2527 W. Kennewick Ave., #313
Kennewick, WA 99336

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Each year, 60% of students enter kindergarten with the skills most predictive of success in school.

Kindergarten Readiness Targets: *Skills to aim for*

1. Language and Reading

- Recognizes and names 10-15 alphabet letters and their sounds
- Repeats beginning and ending sounds in words
- Enjoys being read to and can retell a story
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Prints his or her first name

2. Math and Reasoning

- Counts in order from 1 to 20
- Recognizes numbers and quantities to 5
- Names and sorts items by color, shape and size
- Understands concepts such as more, less, same, above, below, big and small

3. Social and Emotional

- Settles into new groups or situations
- Can concentrate on a task for 5 minutes
- Follows simple directions
- Shows kindness and concern for others

© READY! for Kindergarten

The 40% of students who enter kindergarten 1 to 3 years behind lack many of these fundamental skills.