

Kindergarten Ready Targets

Children who start kindergarten with these skills are ready for a satisfying and successful education.

Language & Literacy

- Enjoys being read to and can retell a story
- Recognizes and names 12-15 alphabet letters and sounds
- Repeats beginning and ending sounds in words
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Prints his or her first name

Math & Reasoning

- Counts in order from 1 to 20
- Recognizes numbers and quantities to 10
- Names and sorts items by color, shape and size
- Understands concepts such as greater than, less than, equal to

Social & Emotional

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

Reading together 20 minutes a day helps children master most of these skills



READY! Research

Fall 2008: 79% of children whose parents attended READY! classes met the kindergarten reading readiness standard compared to 55% of children whose parents did not attend, regardless of family income level. READY! attendees outperformed non-attendees in math readiness, too. Also, there is a correlation between number of classes attended and entering scores – more exposure is related to higher scores. See full report at www.readyforkindergarten.org.

¹ Learning to Read and Write: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children. (1998, July) *Young Children*. 53(4), p. 30-46.

² The word "parent" is used throughout READY! to include legal guardians, birth parents, adoptive parents, relatives who are parenting the child, and other significant, loving adults who provide primary care for the child.

³ *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement*. (2002). Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, p. 65.

READY! Vision

Children begin school ready for a satisfying and successful education through the grades and prepared to achieve their full potential.

READY! Guiding Principles

- Honor parents as their child's most influential and most loved teacher
- Foster effective early learning experiences for children birth to age five
- Instill children with a joy and zest for learning that lasts a lifetime
- Build relationships between parent, child, family, school and community



"The first five years matter! What if every child had five years of learning before kindergarten? That's already the case. All children begin learning from the moment they enter the world, and together we shape their learning. The first few years provide the foundation for all future learning because that's when the brain's architecture – the structure of the brain – is being built. The quality of early experiences has a decisive, long-lasting impact on their ability to learn."

Brant, M. & Winger, P. (2005, August). Reading Your Baby's Mind. *Newsweek*, 32-39.

"READY! provided us with tools and activities that we would not have otherwise thought to use with our child. We are grateful to have READY! for Kindergarten as part of our lives." *READY! Parent*

"Of all the classes we have attended so far in maintaining our foster parent license, READY! for Kindergarten is by far the best program we have been involved with and we look forward to coming each session." *READY! Foster Parent*

"Our families LOVED the classes, tools and age level target information. They are very excited to have the READY! program in our community!" *READY! Program Director*

READY! for Kindergarten is a 501(c)3 non-profit program of The Children's Reading Foundation (www.readingfoundation.org). The Age Level Targets[®] – the backbone of this powerful and popular curriculum – were developed by working closely with families, scientists and educators over a seven-year span. READY! is a community-based program designed to be easily adapted to local needs and opportunities.

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Families, schools and communities nurturing early learning and school readiness



READY!
for Kindergarten

A program providing targets, training and tools for parents, caregivers and child care providers of children birth to age five

Research based
Parent approved

A program of



www.readyforkindergarten.org

The Problem

- The range in student academic achievement persists, and in some cases widens, from kindergarten to high school. Research shows that **students who start behind usually stay behind**, year after year.
- Remediation is expensive and ineffective. Schools **spend twice as much** on students who are behind as those who are at or above grade level.
- Students who start school below grade level form the largest cohort of **dropouts**, and they have **less than a 6% chance** of attending a four-year university.
- From birth to age five a child learns at a speed unmatched the rest of life. The kinds and frequency of interactions at home shape all future learning.

“It is common to find within a kindergarten classroom a five-year range in children’s literacy-related skills and functioning. What this means is that some kindergartners may have skills characteristic of the typical three-year-old while others might be functioning at the level of the typical eight-year-old.”

A joint position statement of the International Reading Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (1998).¹



The Readiness Gap

Educators have identified what children should know and be able to do when they begin school.



Forty percent of all students entering kindergarten are below the standard in language and literacy skills:

- 10% are three years behind**
- 10% are two years behind**
- 20% are one year behind**

Source: Fielding, L. (2009). *Extraordinary Parents*. Available at www.newfoundationpress.com and www.readyforkindergarten.org.

Misconceptions and Consequences

Although research proves otherwise, when parents were asked, “How would beginning kindergarten knowing very few basic skills affect a child’s success in school?” approximately two-thirds (64%) said that a child will be able to catch up to other children within a couple of years.

64% of parents believe:

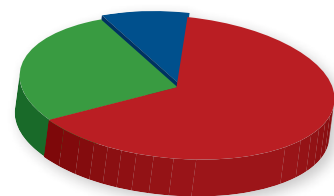
➔ “Child will catch up to other children within a year or two.”

27% of parents believe:

➔ “Child will be behind other children throughout school years.”

9% of parents:

➔ “Not sure.”



Source: Thrive by Five Washington. (2008, March). *Report on Opinion Research*.

The Solution

READY! for Parents

Sponsoring school districts or agencies offer 90-minute classes for parents² with children birth to age five. Each class shares age appropriate information and learning activities for parents to enjoy at home with their child.



- Classes are divided into five age groups and taught by trained instructors. A parent may attend 15 classes by the time his/her child starts kindergarten.
- Each class presents new activities based on the Age Level Targets[®].
- Classes are presented three times a year. Each “season” has a theme:

Fall: How and why to read aloud; letters, sounds and print

Winter: Brain development; numbers and logic

Spring: Language and communication; positive relationships

Lessons available in English, Spanish, Russian, Bosnian, Vietnamese and Somali.

READY! for Preschools

Preschools and programs that offer parent education can easily adapt READY! lessons into short presentations. Using the Parent Kits, it’s simple to present a single target in 10 or 15 minutes or sequence the lessons over two months (e.g., two 45-minute classes). If children attend, a variation is to instruct parents and then involve the children in doing the activities. Everyone benefits from a worthwhile and fun meeting.

READY! for Child Care Providers

Emphasis is on gradually ramping-up skill levels of children based on the ability and interest of each child in their care. Tools provided are ideal for a multi-age setting based on versatility and durability. The curriculum is adapted from the parent lessons and creates consistency for the child between home and day care.



Classes for Providers are 2½ - 3 hours each and designed to meet the developmental needs within an age range. Lessons are available for two age groups: Birth to 24 months and Ages 2 to 5. Classes are easily tailored to fit any training model (e.g., three 1 hour classes for one session; two 1½ hour classes; entire session on the weekend). Sponsoring agencies may offer continuing education credits.

Three sessions are available:

Session I: Early Literacy

Session II: Math and Reasoning

Session III: Language, Social and Emotional

The Process

READY! lessons promote rich learning experiences from cradle to kindergarten. The curriculum facilitates interactions and active learning by using movement, play, exploration, communication and all of a child’s senses – seeing, hearing, smelling, touching and tasting. READY! is designed so children learn in the context of secure, loving relationships. The instructional format models research of parent education programs linked to gains in student learning.³



Targets Each research-based class directly aligns with skills that are significant indicators of success in school. These skills are called “age level targets” because parents and caregivers can aim for them in supporting their child’s intellectual and social-emotional growth.

Training Instructors demonstrate each activity and have parents practice using the materials in class. Parents choose which activities and materials to use at home based on the interests and abilities of their child, and their family values and culture. Information is available to help parents assess their child’s progress and guide him or her to the next learning steps.

Tools Each class provides toys and materials to make learning together at home fun and effective. Once trained, parents take the tools home to share with their child. Examples of READY! tools include puzzles, magnetic letters, music CDs, matching games, and much more. Just five minutes a day is all it takes.

READY! Pricing

READY! is offered by school districts, community colleges, educational service districts, tribes, governmental agencies, non-profits and faith-based groups across the US and Canada. The sponsoring agency provides funding, trained instructors, meeting space, advertising, registration and child care (optional). Check website for current pricing information.



Parent Kits for Classes: \$135 per child per year provides the tools, handouts and PowerPoint lessons for three age-level classes. First time attendees receive an additional \$18 of materials. Individual kits are \$45 each.

Child Care Provider Kits: Birth to 24 months-\$60 per adult per session or \$180 for series of three sessions. Ages 2 to 5-\$90 per adult per session or \$270 for series of three sessions. First time attendees receive an additional \$15 of materials.

Individual Parent Kits: Reformatted lessons for parents who don’t have access to a READY! class. Materials may be auto-shipped fall, winter and spring. Visit www.readyforkindergarten.org for pricing information.

READY! Set! Go! Sponsors receive the *Director’s Guide* upon submitting a Licensing Agreement (available at www.readyforkindergarten.org) and one-time \$300 Registration Fee. The guide provides suggestions for organizing classes, training instructors, advertising to parents, registering attendees and collecting data. An online parent registration program is available that streamlines registration, class size and data analysis.