Conquering The Readiness Gap

Every year 40% of children walk into kindergarten 1 to 3 years behind. There is something you can do about it.
Most students who start behind stay behind, year after year. But those who start ahead, stay ahead.
The Problem

The wide range in student academic achievement persists, and in some cases expands, from kindergarten through high school. Research shows that most students who start behind stay behind, year after year. Research also shows that those who start ahead, stay ahead.

Closing the learning gap once a child begins school is costly and difficult.

Students who start kindergarten below grade level form the largest cohort of dropouts, and they have less than a 2% chance of attending a four-year university.

“...it is common to find within a kindergarten classroom a five-year range in children’s literacy-related skills and functioning (Riley 1996). 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.”

Joint position statement of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the International Reading Association (1998).
Early learning experts have identified the skills children need when they begin school. Forty percent of all students entering kindergarten each year are below the national standard in language and literacy skills:

- 40% are below the standard
- 10% are 3 years behind
- 10% are 2 years behind
- 20% are 1 year behind

Critical Misconceptions

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.

From birth to age 5, a child learns at a speed unmatched the rest of his or her life.
READY! for Kindergarten® school readiness program, empowers parents and caregivers to nurture a child’s learning from birth to age 5. Created by child development experts using groundbreaking research, READY! provides Targets, training, and tools, equipping parents and caregivers to help infants and young children develop essential early literacy, math, and social and emotional skills.

The program supports an integrated, whole-child, play-based learning approach that encompasses cognitive, social and emotional, and physical development, and enhances executive functioning.

**Age-Level Targets®**

The foundation of the READY! program are 26 research-based Age Level Targets. These are skills and developmental milestones that a 5-year-old with typical development should have by the time he or she starts kindergarten. Parents and caregivers aim for these targets in supporting a child’s intellectual and social and emotional growth.

**Training**

Facilitators demonstrate several activities and have parents practice using the materials at each of the 15 available workshops. Parents choose which activities and materials to use at home based on the interests and abilities of the child. Information is available to help parents/caregivers assess a child’s progress and guide them through the learning steps.

**Tools**

The program provides high-quality materials and toys for home, preschool or child care settings. Attendees use the resources to make learning fun and effective. Examples of READY! tools include puzzles, books, magnetic letters, matching games, and much more.
Children with these skills are ready for a successful and satisfying education.
READY! for Parents

School districts and organizations fund READY! for Kindergarten for parents and caregivers of children birth to age 5. Sessions focus on understanding developmental milestones and how to nurture emerging literacy, math, and social and emotional skills.

Workshops share information and teach age-appropriate learning activities based on the READY! Age Level Targets. Lessons are available in English and Spanish, and can be adapted for other non-English speaking populations.

Each series of workshops present all domains – language and literacy, math and reasoning, and social and emotional development. At every workshop, facilitators share a variety of activities to support reading and letter knowledge, as those are two of the skills highly correlated with school readiness.

READY! for Child Care & Preschool Programs

The program creates consistency for the child between home and preschool or child care settings. The activities and tools are designed to meet the learning needs of children from ages 2 to 5. Tools provided are versatile, durable and ideal for a multi-age setting.

Two kits are available:

**Language & Literacy**
**Math & Reasoning/Social & Emotional Development**

READY! is Adaptable

READY! is designed to be adapted for local needs and opportunities including Head Start programs, preschools, home visiting, and other delivery models. This provides flexibility in how programs serve diverse populations.
READY! is a research-based, proven program that won a Top 100 Award for programs from District Administration Magazine.
The Research

Independent research verified that 79% of children whose parents attended READY! workshops met the kindergarten reading readiness standard, compared to 55% of children whose parents did not attend. Equally important, the program significantly decreased the number of at-risk children entering kindergarten 2-3 years behind.

Washington State University Study
Kennewick School District (Washington)

In Muhlenberg County, the Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation's SOAR program began offering the READY! for Kindergarten program in partnership with the local school system and family resource centers in 2014. With more than 50% of families participating each year, kindergarten teachers tell us they can see a difference and the county’s kindergarten readiness scores have improved significantly.

Vicki Yonts,
Program Manager, Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation
SOAR Program, Muhlenberg County (Kentucky)

In 2008, 44% of Lake Pend Oreille School District children entering kindergarten tested below proficiency for learning readiness. After the first year, and every year since, an average of 90% of the READY! for Kindergarten graduates entered school testing at or above kindergarten readiness levels.

Panhandle Alliance for Education
Lake Pend Oreille School District (Idaho)

Read research, results, and more at ReadingFoundation.org/Research.
For every $1 spent on early education between birth and age 5, states will see a return of $13. A small investment at the start will produce great gains for life.

HeckmanEquation.org/Resource/13-ROI-Toolbox/
The READY! for Kindergarten Parent Program is sponsored by school districts and organizations that provide the funding, trained facilitators, workshop space, advertising, registration, and child care. Workshops are generally provided at no charge to parents and caregivers. Pricing below reflects program materials costs for one child for one year.

**READY! for Kindergarten Parent Program**

**READY! Orientation Kit**

**3 PARENT WORKSHOPS**

**3 TOOL KITS**

**FALL**

- LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

**WINTER**

- MATH AND REASONING

**SPRING**

- SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL

$195

**READY! Orientation Kit**

REQUIRED PURCHASE

For first-time attendees

$24

Prices are subject to change - shipping and handling not included. Licensing agreement and fee required. For additional information and other cost considerations to deliver the READY! Parent Program visit ReadingFoundation.org/ReadyforKindergarten/Start-a-Ready-Program.
The program is adapted from the parent lessons and creates consistency for the child between home and preschool or child care settings.
The READY! for Kindergarten program for Child Care & Preschool is purchased by organizations working with preschool educators and child care providers or directly by individual early childhood professionals. The program includes training and tools providers use to help nurture the skill development of children ages 2 to 5 in their care. Each kit contains enough tools for up to three children, as well as a bound notebook of resources.

**READY! @ Child Care & Preschool Program**

**Language & Literacy Kit**

**Math & Reasoning Social & Emotional Kit**

$398 Serves a Small Group

Prices are subject to change - shipping and handling not included. Licensing agreement and fee required. For additional information about the READY! @ Child Care and Preschool Program visit ReadingFoundation.org/ReadyforKindergarten/Start-a-Ready-Program.
“It feels like a dream come true to find a program with 20 years of research and that meets the needs of families!”

Lorraine Verploegen, Executive Director, Plant a Seed… READ! (Montana)
The Response

“The READY! for Kindergarten workshops were very beneficial in helping me foster a culture of learning in my household. I was given an abundance of free learning materials and tools that are FUN and EASY to use with my child. My son and I still use these materials often, and there wasn’t one activity we didn’t enjoy together.”

Paige Hosford
Sunnyslope Elementary School (Oregon)

“My daughter knew her alphabet, counting, and simple things, but I was not sure what to do next. The program gave me tools to use at the right time to help with her learning. Each time I went to a workshop, I learned more about her development and what she was capable of. My child asks to do the activities, and it helps to have that positive time together.”

Toni Wheeler, Capital Area Community Services
Head Start (Michigan)

“READY! for Kindergarten workshops are warm and friendly settings with other parents. They gave me the tools and knowledge to nurture our child’s learning journey. I felt supported and that I was doing the right thing. Using the methods we learned improved our quality time through purposeful play. Our son learned faster, and it allowed us to focus on skill development.”

Cassandra Krawec Paul
McMinnville School District (Oregon)
“Our parents’ faces just light up when they talk about all the amazing things happening in their homes because of READY! for Kindergarten. They beam with confidence. Those moments are priceless.”

Sonia Moreno, Executive Director, The Children’s Reading Foundation of Luna County, New Mexico
The Response

“READY! offers parents an integrated, incredibly organized, lifestyle approach that enhances literacy, mathematics, and social-emotional development within a child’s first five years.”

Rae Smith, Monadnock School District, Swanzey, New Hampshire

“Early Learning in Sumner includes children, families, schools, and the community from birth to third grade. As a school district, we go beyond the requirement of K-12 education to begin supporting families and children well before they walk into our schools as kindergartners. READY! for Kindergarten is an excellent program to build the potential and the foundation for our youngest learners. And READY! does it by supporting their first and most important teachers: their parents!”

Laurie Sjolund, Early Learning Coordinator, Sumner School District, Sumner, Washington

“Parents are a child’s first and most influential teacher and READY! is designed to help them be the most effective teacher they can be. In a short period of time we were able to bring the READY! for Kindergarten program, in multiple languages, to diverse communities, and that’s exciting.”

Lemi Erinkitola, Executive Director, The Children’s Reading Foundation of Greater Chicago, Illinois

“We began offering the READY! for Kindergarten program in partnership with the local school system and family resource centers in 2014. With more than 50 percent of families participating each year, kindergarten teachers tell us they can see a difference and the county’s kindergarten readiness scores have improved significantly.”

Vicki Yonts, Program Manager, Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation, SOAR Program, Muhlenberg County (Kentucky)