

School Readiness Definition



The National Educational Goals Panel has defined five dimensions of school readiness:

- Physical Well-Being and Motor Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning (curiosity, enthusiasm and persistence)
- Language Development
- Cognition and General Knowledge

School Readiness is the sum of children's experiences prior to kindergarten. A high quality early childhood education, whether provided by family or a formal program, increases a child's ability to succeed in school. The entire community is responsible for enhancing the physical, social, and cognitive development of children, from prenatal care through the age of five.

Children are ready for a successful transition to school when:

- Possible health barriers that block learning have been detected and addressed,
- Enthusiasm, curiosity and persistence toward learning is demonstrated,
- The child is effective at communicating frustrations, anger and joy,
- The child is able to get along well with others,
- Early literacy skills are evident, and
- A general knowledge about the world, things, places, events and people has been acquired.

There is no perfect formula that can exactly determine when children are truly ready for kindergarten, because children grow and develop at different rates. Therefore, schools must be ready to meet the needs of each child at their particular stage of development.

Providing opportunities for families and communities to prepare all children for success in school, thereby setting the stage for high school graduation, post-secondary education and a vibrant economy.

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