

National ECELC Newsletter

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Ready, Set, Go:

School Readiness in Your Program

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Provider Appreciation Day!

Friday, May 8, 2015

Provider appreciation day is a special day to recognize early care and education providers. Provider appreciation day was founded by organizers who felt that these individuals should be acknowledged for the work that they do daily.

Provider Appreciation day is a perfect opportunity to celebrate staff in your program. Invite local businessmen, board members, and local government officials to salute early childhood professionals. Use this as an opportunity to engage parents and families

You can access Provider Appreciation Day materials including certificates, thank you notes, logos and more at www.providerappreciationday.org

School readiness is a child's ability to master different skills that have been identified as age-appropriate for children ages 5-6. The child should master skills in the following areas:

- Language and Literacy
- Physical Development;
- Social Studies;
- Scientific Thinking;
- Mathematical Thinking;
- The Arts; and
- Social/ Emotional Development.

The Office of Head Start provides three tips early care and education programs can do to achieve school readiness.

- 1) **Setting goals-** setting program goals allows a center to describe the intended purposes and expected results from quality teaching and learning.
- 2) **Planning and Implementing-** a plan of action can help to meet desired outcomes of school readiness. A key part of this plan is to ensure that children's progress is supported by their child care providers.
- 3) **Assessment-** it is important to measure whether progress toward school readiness goals are being met. This can be done through observations, direct assessment, checklists, and staff/parent reported measures.

For more information of how to prepare your program for being "school ready" please visit <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hssl/hs/sr>.

Tools for School Readiness

State Kindergarten Self-Assessments

Nationwide, states have begun to develop tools to assist teachers while working with children to prepare them for Kindergarten. States measure readiness on a variety of standards; teacher-completed checklists, questionnaires, rating scales, and direct assessments of literacy and communication skills.

For more information about assessments check with your State Department of Education.

Take Time. Talk! Giving Children the Words they Need.

This is a tool for children ages 0-5 to help them develop a stronger vocabulary. This tool is available at:

http://laup.net/documents/support/events/cgi/taketimetalk_digital_english.pdf

Nemours Brightstart!

Nemours Brightstart! early literacy program helps teach children who are at-risk for reading failure. Brightstart! developed a reading tool called *Get Ready to Read*. *Get Ready to Read* screening tool is designed for parents and early education providers to use with children the year before they enter Kindergarten. The tool measures key early literacy skills:

- Print knowledge;
- Linguistic awareness; and
- Emergent writing.

For more information about Nemours Brightstart! please visit <http://www.nemours.org/services/health.brightstart.html>



Activities to Promote School Readiness

Preparing children for school is not just teaching them reading and writing skills but it is enhancing skills among the various developmental domains. Many times they are activities you are already doing!

• Social/ Emotional Development

- Play board games to practice taking turns; and
- Encourage children to problem solve, allow them an opportunity to discover the solutions to problems independently.

• Language Development

- Provide children with one and two-step directions and encourage them to follow-through;
- Read by holding the book the correct way(right side up), point at the words, and show the appropriate way to read books (left to right); and
- After reading a book, ask questions about what happened during the beginning, middle and end of the story.

• Cognitive Development

- Encourage building and block play, this teaches children to gauge space, distance and size;
- Have children pretend to write and draw, this introduces positional and directional concepts(In/Out, Up/Down); and
- Allow children to play in wet and dry sand, this allows children to identify changes that can occur when things are mixed together.

• Physical Development (Gross and Fine Motor Skills)

- Practice writing the child's, name, identify upper and lowercase letters and the appropriate time to use them; and
- Encourage children to play with small interlocking blocks, this helps to develop small motor control that is needed to write.

For more tips and activities check out *Today's Play...Tomorrow's Success* chart at www.dpi.wi.gov/ec_begin-sch-yr.



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