







Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten

Many parents want to know how to help their child do well in Kindergarten. In Wisconsin, children are eligible for kindergarten based on their age and not on their skills. Instead of equipping children with specific academic skills before they arrive, most early childhood experts agree that parents can best prepare their child to learn in school by providing frequent opportunities to play, talk, experiment and wonder in a relaxed and supportive environment. Children grow and develop at different rates, but are born with a great capacity to learn. Following are some useful resources to help parents build a strong foundation for school.

- [Helping Your Preschool Child](#)  with activities for children from infancy through age 5.
- The [Ready for School Checklist](#)  can help to guide you as you prepare your child for school.
- [Brochure](#) : "Wisconsin's Children Moving Forward, An Introduction to Child Outcomes"
- [Today's Play... Tomorrow's Success!](#)  A chart which emphasizes the importance of play in early childhood as the best foundation for success in school.
- [Getting School Ready](http://www.lovetalkplayshop.org/) (<http://www.lovetalkplayshop.org/>). A booklet that explains how parents can prepare children for school and how schools can get ready for children. From the Foundation for Early Learning.
- **The Truth About Play** The national Zero Three organization has numerous articles about play. <http://www.zerotothree.org/early-learning/play> (<https://www.zerotothree.org/early-learning/play>).
- [The Wisdom of Play: How Children Learn to Make Sense of Their World](#) . Ten renowned early childhood educators explain why play is such an essential part of every child's emotional and physical well-being. (28 page booklet) (<http://www.communityplaythings.com/requestliterature/frmRequestMultiple.aspx>)
- Transition to Kindergarten Parent Guides http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Introduction_Entry/ (http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Introduction_Entry/) A series of brief handouts for parents on what to expect and how to help children prepare for and make the transition to Kindergarten. From the Michigan Department of Education.
- General Tips for Preparing for Kindergarten <http://www.education.com/topic/preparing-for-kindergarten/> (<http://www.education.com/topic/preparing-for-kindergarten/>). Take the first steps to prepare your child for kindergarten using tips from experts and teachers.

- School Resources for Parents at <http://school.familyeducation.com/> (<http://school.familyeducation.com/>) includes skill-building ideas for parents of children birth through high school. Check out the **Help by Grade Level** section for lots of age-appropriate suggestions about what to expect and how to help your child.
- "[Tips for Reading with Children](http://minnesotahumanities.org/resources/tips) (<http://minnesotahumanities.org/resources/tips>)" is a single sheet handout for families with young children. Published in 25 languages -- from Amharic to Urdu -- it offers helpful hints for parents to read with children and establish good reading habits. From the Minnesota Humanities Center: <http://www.humanitieslearning.org/resource/>. (<http://www.humanitieslearning.org/resource/>) *Type in "Tips for Reading with Children" in the *search* box to pull up the menu of different languages.
- [Free and Low Cost Literacy Resources](#)  offers parents and educators a list of booklets and brochures focused on getting preschoolers ready to read that can be downloaded or ordered at little or no cost.

For Parents of Children with Special Needs

- Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WISPEI) at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/families/materials> (<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/families/materials>). A free service to help parents, educators, and others find or create resources and build positive working relationships that promote learning for children with disabilities.

For English Language Learners

- Como ayudar a su hijo durante la edad preescolar (Helping your preschool child) <http://www.ed.gov/espanol/parents/academic/preescolar/part.html> (<http://www.ed.gov/espanol/parents/academic/preescolar/part.html>).
- Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/espanol.html> (<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/espanol.html>).
- Dane County Cooperative Extension-Family Living <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/dane/flp/resourcesspanishhmong.html> (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/dane/flp/resourcesspanishhmong.html>).

For questions about this information, contact [Sherry Kimball](mailto:Sherry.Kimball@dpi.wi.gov) (<https://dpi.wi.gov/user/798/contact>) (608) 267-9625