

The early years matter!



From Ready At Five's Executive Director Steven Hicks

Stand Up for America by Standing Up for Children

The month of June, for some children, marks the end of their preschool year and the summer before kindergarten starts. For the lucky few that were afforded the opportunity to participate in high-quality preschool, these children have [greater chances for success](#) when they return to school in September. Sadly, though, 88% of Maryland's 3-year-olds and 57% of Maryland's 4-year-olds did not have access to publicly-funded early learning programs. This means many parents likely had to make the tough decision on whether to spend their resources on food, housing, and other family needs or higher-quality early care and education. The president's proposed [2018 budget](#) will worsen access to affordable, quality early learning programs for children from poor and middle-class families. Thankfully, this is just the opening salvo in the budget battles, and Congress now has the opportunity to create a spending plan that will support families and children.

[Read more here](#)



Engage with ReadyRosie



[ReadyRosie Summer Soar](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) will deliver specific learning activities and games to make summer learning soar in 2017!

Fun and inspiring activities that families will love to play throughout the summer months! All content and videos in English and Spanish. Make sure to sign up for a free trial of ReadyRosie by going to www.readyrosie.com/register/ and enter the zip code 19888! Pass it along!



Get ready for ReadyRosie Summer Soar!

Register now for free daily videos of activities to do with your child until August 31, 2017. Visit readyrosie.com/register and enter the zip code 19888 and this summer you will receive fun and engaging games and activities that you can do anytime and anywhere to ensure that the break is a time of learning and bonding for you and your children. Look for a message each week with the Summer playlists. Once you register, go here to see all the ideas to fill your summer with math, reading, and great conversations: readyrosie.com/SummerSoar

Research shows that children can lose 20% or more of what they have learned over the summer months. By playing these ReadyRosie games together, your child can experience the opposite – a time of learning, growing, and bonding!



WEEK #1: Start your family's summer learning adventure today!

Summer is here! How can you have a FUN summer AND learn together along the way? We've got some ideas and we're sure you have wonderful ideas of your own. Invite your child to draw or write a list of the things you would like to do together!

WATCH ALL NOW



Building a Fort

Want to create a memorable summer for your child? Start by making reading together an adventure!



Ten in a Row

We think this card game will become one of your summer favorites. Your child won't even realize how much math is being learned while racing you to Ten in a Row!



Morning Message

Keep a simple record of your summer days AND help your child begin to read at the same time!

Ready At Five Is Building Momentum And Is Pleased To Share Our Work In 2016!

There is work to be done and Ready At Five is doing its part to increase the number of children entering kindergarten ready to succeed. Please [click here](#) to see our 2016 Annual Report!



Program Update

Dorchester County [Learning Parties](#) provide an overview of the Social Foundations Domain of Learning and the social and emotional skills children need. Parents learn how offering time for children to play, be curious, talk, discuss feelings, and ask questions builds social, emotional, and executive functioning skills. Strategies for fostering resiliency, effective transitions, delayed gratification and self confidence are provided, as well as tips for being a positive role model.



Featured Resources

Domain Of Learning Card: Exploring The World Of Science

This activity card provides parents/caregivers and early learning teachers with easy-to-use tips and activities in English and Spanish to support children as they develop critical scientific thinking skills. [Download here for free](#) or [purchase here](#).



Families Matter

Is your child ready for success in kindergarten? As a parent or family member, you play a critical role in your child's readiness for school. Check out our [Families Matter](#) piece (also available in [Spanish](#)) to make sure that your child is ready for success!

FAMILIES MATTER
PREPARING THE FUTURE

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR SUCCESS IN KINDERGARTEN?
As a parent or family member, you play a critical role in your child's readiness for school. From the day your child is born, you are helping to develop the academic, social, physical, and emotional skills that will stay with your child throughout his or her life.

Studies show that children who demonstrate readiness at kindergarten entry are more likely to have long-term school success. Unfortunately, less than half of Maryland's entering kindergartners demonstrate the foundational knowledge, skills, and behaviors needed to fully participate in the kindergarten curriculum.

HOW IS READINESS DETERMINED?
Kindergarten readiness - the knowledge, skills and behaviors that enable your child to fully participate and succeed in school - sets the stage for Future Learning. Readiness for school is one of the most important factors in your child's academic success.

When your child starts school, the teacher may use the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) to look at what your child knows and is able to do in four areas:

- Language & Literacy: Talking and listening to adults and other children. Speaking clearly, understanding stories, identifying letters and some letter sounds, writing some letters and numbers.
- Math: Naming numbers, counting, sorting things by color and shape. Putting things in order, clipping patterns.
- Social Foundations: Getting along with others, Making Friends, Following rules, routines, and multi-step directions. Handling emotions, staying on task, solving problems.
- Physical Well-being & Motor Development: Running, jumping, climbing, and playing ball, buttoning a shirt or zipping up a jacket, using scissors, drawing, writing numbers and letters, using good health and safety skills.

The KRA uses teacher observations of daily activities and age-appropriate tasks to understand how well your child is prepared for the kindergarten curriculum and what supports may be needed.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT

Overall Performance: 2008

What do the results mean? Students who demonstrate readiness have mastered key content, skills, and behaviors and are prepared for kindergarten. Children assessed as Approaching Readiness have some of the skills that kindergartners need to fully participate in the kindergarten curriculum. Children with Emerging Readiness demonstrate very few of the skills and behaviors needed for kindergarten. Children with approaching or emerging readiness may require targeted or substantial supports to succeed in kindergarten.

WHAT IS THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT?
If the teacher used the KRA, your child's readiness for school is described in the Individual Student Report (ISR). See example above. Your child receives a readiness score for each domain and for overall performance.

Use this report to start a discussion with the teacher about your child's strengths and areas for improvement. Ask:

- what are my child's strengths?
- in what areas does my child need support?
- what can we do at home to build my child's knowledge and skills?

If your child was not assessed using the KRA, be sure to talk with your child's teacher during the parent/teacher conferences about teacher kindergarten readiness and ask similar questions to those listed above.

A Chance to Give

Please help us as we work to ensure that all children in Maryland have the



foundational skills needed for success in school, career and life.

[Donate Now](#)

Ready At Five

5520 Research Park Drive, Suite 150

Baltimore, MD 21228

www.readyatfive.org

The early years
matter!

STAY CONNECTED



SUBSCRIBE TO
OUR NEWSLETTER