

"QUALITY" THE BEST FOR KIDS

THE 7 ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR CHILDREN TO HAVE BEFORE STARTING SCHOOL

0 Comments

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What can parents and caregivers do to help their preschooler develop the abilities, attitudes and knowledge to be successful in adjusting to school life and doing well during the first 12 months?

ChildForum researched this question by talking with parents and new entrant teachers and drew on our team's understandings of child development to form a list of seven essential skills for being ready for school-level education and suggestions for parents on ways to foster these skills.

ChildForum's recommended "7 Essential Skills for School Readiness" and suggestions for ways to help your child be ready for school are:

1. ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE

Interest your child in seeing the basic shapes in letters and numbers and noticing how shapes are different. Point out and discuss road, shop and other signs and letter box numbers while walking, driving and shopping together. Notice the different sizes of coins and that coins have different value amounts/numbers.

2. KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE WORLD

Give your child lots of varied experiences. Get out and about, visit different places, travel on different vehicles (e.g. paddle-boat, bike, bus, train), talk with different people, see and try different things.

3. SELF-HELP SKILLS

Support your child to learn to dress and undress themselves, go to the bathroom and wash their hands unassisted and without being reminded, tidy-up after play, and hang up and fold their clothes.

4. LISTENING SKILLS

Read to your child on a regular basis. Talk with your child about things and focus your child's attention on what they are seeing and hearing.

5. CURIOSITY AND QUESTIONING SKILLS

Respond to your child's questions and share in your child's curiosity by discovering answers and new information together.

6. FINE MOTOR AND COORDINATION SKILLS

Help your child build their hand muscles by providing drawing and cutting activities, puzzles, water pouring, play-dough and clay, threading large beads and hammering activities, etc.

7. INDEPENDENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Foster independence by arranging for your child to visit their friends and extended family members, and stay for a short time without you. Also notice and praise when they do something that shows independence (e.g. gets their own coat when it's time to go out). Let your child hold and take care of their own bus ticket, decide what lunch they will have, or create other safe opportunities for your child to practise being independent and exercising self-responsibility.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO TALK WITH THE NEW ENTRANT TEACHER

Well ahead of your child's familiarisation visits to their new school. Check with the new entrant teacher for anything that he/she specifically likes children to already be competent in doing before starting.

Good luck and best wishes from us at the ChildForum Early Childhood Network!!!!