



School Readiness

What can I do to Help my Child Get Ready for Kindergarten?

For many parents, having their children go off to kindergarten can be both an exciting time and a stressful time in their lives. You may be asking yourself whether you have done enough to make sure your child is ready for school. Did you know that many of the things you are already doing at home support your child's learning? Early learning includes listening, talking, writing and reading. Here are some simple ways for you to support your child's learning right at home.

- Read aloud to your child often.
- Have a team meeting allowing each of your family members to talk about their day and what was special.
- Act as a good role model by reading and writing at home.
- Visit your public library and allow your child to choose books that he or she likes, not just based on what their ability level is.
- Share written messages with each other.
- Setup a place where children can write or read with plenty of books and things to draw or write with.
- Have your child start a personal journal and encourage her to share things in it with you.
- Start a personal library at home.
- Visit your local parent child center or local school for more suggestions about learning.
- Call PIRC-Vermont (Parent Information Center Vermont) at (800)639-7170 to speak to a Family Consultant.

Going to kindergarten can be a very exciting event for children and their families. Hopefully understanding the many things you're already doing with your child along with getting these new ideas will help you and your child with this important transition.

For more information, check out *Off to Kindergarten: A booklet for parents, caregivers, and schools*. To order your free copy, call the Vermont Department of Education at (802)828-3892.