

Building a Strong Foundation for School Success

The Kentucky Early Childhood Standards: Helping at Home

You are important! Whether you are a parent, guardian or caregiver, your child needs your help and support to be successful. This "Parent Guide" was designed to support you and your child's success.

What is School Readiness?

In Kentucky, school readiness means that each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success. Families, early care and education providers, school staff and community partners must work together to provide environments and developmental experiences that promote growth and learning to ensure that all children in Kentucky enter school eager and excited to learn.

Kentucky schools will be using a common kindergarten entry screener to determine a child's readiness for school in the five developmental areas listed below. However, the screener will **not be used** to determine whether a child is eligible to attend kindergarten.



Kentucky recognizes that there are five developmental areas for school readiness:

- Approaches to learning
- Health and physical well-being
- Language and communication development
- Social and emotional development; and
- Cognitive and general knowledge

Why does Kentucky screen for school readiness?

- To inform school districts, parents, and communities about early learning.
- To make informed policy decisions to support early learning experiences for young children.
- To establish local goals for program improvement.
- To begin collecting data for the Kindergarten through 3rd grade Program Evaluation.

Look in the back of this Guide for more details.

This guide was created based on the Kentucky Early Childhood Core Content Standards. It provides information about the standards, what the standards mean and ways you can help your child develop important skills. Highlighted in this guide is "Approaches to Learning."

What is "Approaches to Learning"?

The way a child engages in learning experiences is referred to as their "Approaches to Learning."

- Every child learns differently.
- Each child's approach to learning is unique to each child.
- Some children may be reserved and thoughtful when first engaging in learning experiences while other children eagerly join in new activities.

Research identifies Approaches to Learning as one of the most "powerful predictors of later success in school." This means that young children that develop an interest and joy in learning go on to have later success in school.



Approaches to Learning has three components:

Initiative and Curiosity – How curious is a child about learning? How does a child engage in and initiate learning experiences?

Persistence and Attentiveness – How persistent is a child when engaging in activities? Does a child continue in tasks that are challenging or frustrating?

Cooperation – Does a child play in groups or pairs based on interest?

Examples of Approaches to Learning using the three components:

Jillian looks intently at the top of a "jack in the box" as the handle is turned by her big brother. (Initiative and Curiosity)

Dakota tugs on his mother's skirt when he wants to be picked up. (Persistence and Attentiveness)

Philip takes turns using cups, bowls and spoons in the sand. (Cooperation)

Throughout this guide, you will see suggestions on how you can recognize and foster your child's Approaches to Learning in boxes just like this one. Each page includes activities that you can do with your child to encourage them to learn in ways that will keep them interested and engaged.