

How can I help my child be successful?

Four Important Family Commitments:

- » Make sure your 3- to 6-year-old child gets at least 10 hours of sleep per night;
- » Develop consistent routines that include a daily bedtime and wake up time;
- » Read aloud to your child every day for at least 20 minutes. You can use one session or several shorter sessions to meet this goal;
- » Use positive discipline (Say three positive things for every one negative or correcting statement.);
- » Spend quality time talking with your child each day; and
- » Build the habit of good attendance at school.

Source: Adapted from www.ceelo.org
American Academy of Pediatrics • www.aap.org



For more information

about early learning programs in West Virginia, including **Find My WV Pre-K**, contact the West Virginia Department of Education's **Office of PK-12 Academic Support** at 304-558-8098, or visit www.ReadySetGoWV.com or wvde.us/find-my-pre-k.

Resources

WVDE Office of PK-12 Academic Support

wvde.us/early-and-elementary-learning

West Virginia Birth to Three Services

1-866-321-4RAU

www.wvdhhr.org/birth23

Preschool Special Education Services

1-800-642-8541

WVDoHS Division of Early Care & Education

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bfa/ece/Pages/default.aspx>

West Virginia Head Start Association

www.wvheadstart.org

West Virginia Home Visiting Programs

www.homevisitwv.org

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in West Virginia

www.marshall.edu/juneharless/imaginationlibrary



West Virginia Universal Pre-K & Kindergarten

A FAMILY'S GUIDE to SCHOOL READINESS



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Introduction

The West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education, as well as local, state, and national partners, believe strongly that the first years of a child's life and schooling are very important to help establish solid foundations for lifelong learning. School readiness in West Virginia includes all areas of learning and growth of your child, such as their:

- » health and physical development;
- » social and emotional development;
- » language and communication;
- » cognition and general knowledge; and
- » their individual approaches to learning.

Children enter school with varied levels of skills and learning experiences. All children deserve the chance to engage in high-quality West Virginia Universal Pre-K and kindergarten programs.

This resource is provided for families of young children who are entering West Virginia Universal Pre-K or West Virginia kindergarten programs for the first time to help strengthen the connection between children, communities, families, and schools.



Is my child eligible?

The following are guidelines for families enrolling their child in a West Virginia Universal Pre-K or kindergarten program:

» **Age requirements:**

- 3 years old with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 4 years old prior to July 1 for West Virginia Universal Pre-K Programs
- 5 years old prior to July 1 for West Virginia kindergarten programs

» **The following items will be needed:**

- A copy of an original birth certificate certified by the state's registrar of vital statistics;
- A dental examination conducted by a dentist;
- A HealthCheck/well-child exam by a medical provider completed within the last year;
- Immunization records. Your child's family physician can enter all immunization records into a state database (WVSIIS). Each school can access this database and review these records for school entry. Should your child still be catching up on their vaccinations, please work closely with the school nurse to ensure all vaccinations are current.

What should I expect of my child's early learning experience?



West Virginia Universal Pre-K and kindergarten programs should be inclusive, engaging, and fun for all children! Here are a few key indicators of a high-quality early learning experience:

- » An inviting classroom where children can learn through active exploration and experimentation;
- » An active classroom where children are busy learning through play that is developmentally-appropriate and culturally-sensitive;
- » Lots of conversations throughout the day with other children and adults;
- » A schedule that allows large blocks of time for children to learn about topics that interest them;
- » A teacher and teacher assistant(s) who interact with children to support and extend their learning;
- » A program where children can actively play, talk, and work with other children;
- » An integrated use of grade level content standards to assure children develop solid foundations for learning;
- » Evidence of children's learning across all areas of development, which will be shared with families throughout the school year; and
- » An inclusive classroom that provides meaningful everyday experiences.