

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 Early & Elementary Learning** at 304.558.9994, or visit **www.readyssetgowv.com**

Resources

WVDE Office of Early & Elementary Learning
wvde.us/early-and-elementary-learning/

WV Birth to Three Services
1.866.321.4RAU

Preschool Special Education Services
1.800.642.8541

WVDHHR Early Care & Education
www.dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/Childcare/Pages/default.aspx

West Virginia Head Start Association
www.wvheadstart.org

West Virginia Home Visiting Programs
www.homevisitwv.org

How can I help my child be successful?

Four Important Family Commitments:

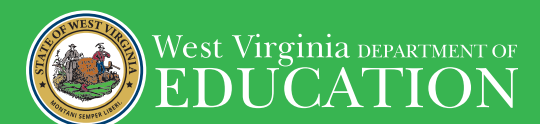
- Make sure your 3-6 year old child gets at least 10 hours of sleep per night;
- Read aloud to your child every day for at least 20 minutes. You can use one session or several shorter sessions to meet the goal;
- Use positive discipline (Say 3 positive things for every 1 negative or correcting statement.); and
- Spend quality time talking with your child each day.

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



West Virginia Universal Pre-K & Kindergarten

A FAMILY'S GUIDE to SCHOOL READINESS



Introduction

The West Virginia Board of Education, in collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Education and local, state, and national groups, believes strongly that the first years of a child's life and schooling are very important and can establish solid foundations for lifelong learning. School readiness in West Virginia includes all the different areas of learning and growth of your child, such as his or her:

- 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 WV Universal Pre-K and Kindergarten Programs.

This resource is provided for families of young children who are entering WV Universal Pre-K or WV 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 WV Universal Pre-K or Kindergarten Program:

- Age requirements:
 - Beginning in 2018, 3 years old with IEP and 4 years old prior to July 1 for WV Universal Pre-K Programs
 - Beginning in 2019, 5 years old prior to July 1 for WV Kindergarten Programs
- A copy of an original birth certificate certified by the state's registrar of vital statistics is needed to enroll;
- A valid HealthCheck/well-child exam by a medical provider, dental examination by a dentist and immunization records are also needed to enroll;
- 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?

WV 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 and everyday experiences.

