

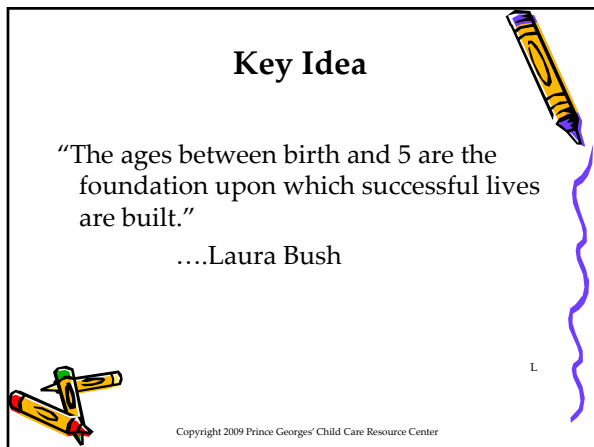


**Smooth Transitions:
Ready for Schools**

Presented by:
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Prince George's Child Resource Center

Key Idea

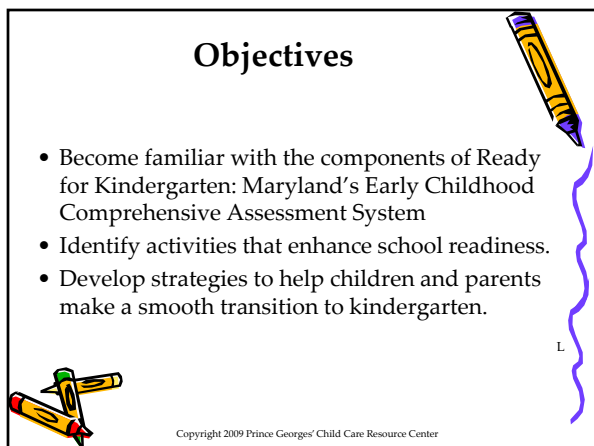
"The ages between birth and 5 are the foundation upon which successful lives are built."
....Laura Bush



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Objectives



- Become familiar with the components of Ready for Kindergarten: Maryland's Early Childhood Comprehensive Assessment System
- Identify activities that enhance school readiness.
- Develop strategies to help children and parents make a smooth transition to kindergarten.



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Why are the Early Years Important?

- The brain grows very rapidly and is forming many connections during this period.
- Early experiences have an effect on brain development.
- Core learning that shapes each person's understanding of and ability to function in the world actually happens between birth and age 6.





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Factors for Healthy Development

What factors contribute to a child's healthy growth and development?

- Capable Parents
- Quality Early Childhood Programs
- Accessible, Quality Health Care
- Family Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Safe Communities





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What Does A Child Need to Know?

What are some of the key skills a child needs in order to be ready for school?



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**School Readiness:
Maryland's Definition**

Maryland State Department of Education defines school readiness as "the state of early development that enables an individual child to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences. As a result of family nurturing and interactions with others, a young child has reached certain levels of social and emotional development, cognition and general knowledge, language development, and physical well-being and motor development. School readiness acknowledges individual approaches toward learning as well as the unique experiences and backgrounds of each child."

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**Ready for Kindergarten
Maryland (R4K Maryland)**

"At its core R4K has a simple purpose: to improve outcomes for young children."

Early Learning Assessment

+

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

→

Ready for Kindergarten Maryland


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**Developmentally
Appropriate Practice**


What we know about developmental stages
+
What we know about the individual child
+
What we know about the child's cultural/family background

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Early Learning Assessment




SEFEL Pyramid
Social Foundations




Language & Literacy




Mathematics




Physical Well-being & Motor Development



Fine Arts



Science



Social Studies

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Social Foundations

- The child has supports for their needs in the classroom
- Social-emotional needs
- Approaches to learning

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Language and Literacy

- The child
 - Talks and listens to others
 - Speaks clearly
 - Understands stories
 - Loves books
 - Identifies letter-sound connections

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Mathematics

- The child:
 - Sorts
 - Can count "how long it takes to run across the park"
 - Recognizes simple patterns
 - Can describe shapes



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Science

- The child:
 - Starts to understand rules and reasons for them
 - Likes to explore natural and physical phenomenon
 - Is able to observe and describe properties of objects (texture, weight, temperature, etc.)



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Social Studies

- The child explores:
 - Living in a family, neighborhood, community & the larger world
 - That people are similar or different
 - Why there are rules

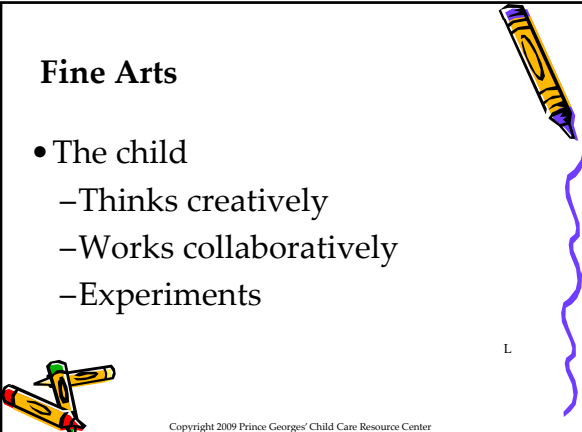


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Fine Arts

- The child
 - Thinks creatively
 - Works collaboratively
 - Experiments

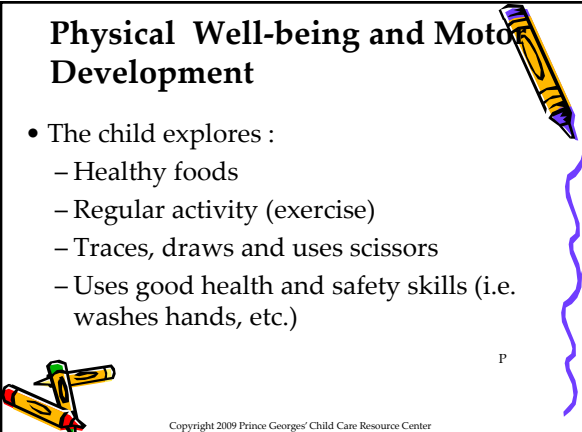


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Physical Well-being and Motor Development

- The child explores :
 - Healthy foods
 - Regular activity (exercise)
 - Traces, draws and uses scissors
 - Uses good health and safety skills (i.e. washes hands, etc.)

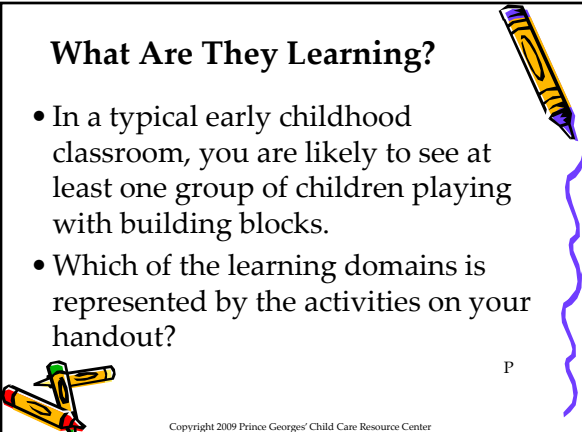


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What Are They Learning?

- In a typical early childhood classroom, you are likely to see at least one group of children playing with building blocks.
- Which of the learning domains is represented by the activities on your handout?



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How is Readiness Assessed?

- The **Early Learning Assessment** is a formative assessment helps measure children's growth and development over the seven domains
 - The assessment tool can be used several times during a year
 - Provides tools to help collect and review documentation on a child
 - Helps with planning for each child



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How is Readiness Assessed?

- The **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment** measures the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that children bring with them to school during the beginning of the school year
- Children are rated as:
 - Demonstrating Readiness
 - Approaching Readiness
 - Emerging Readiness



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Early Education Programs

- Child Care Centers
- Family Child Care Homes
- Early Head Start/Head Start Programs
- Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Family Education Centers
- Home/Informal Care
- Early Identification and Intervention Program (EIIP)
- Prekindergarten
- The Maryland Infants and Toddler Program



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How Do We Support Parents?

- Parents are the child’s first teacher.
- Everything a parent does with a child helps the child learn new skills.
- Encourage growth during daily activities such as feeding, bathing, grocery shopping, and playing.



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What Can Parents Do?

- Offer children opportunities to build skills and abilities by:
 - Playing with other children
 - Following rules and routines
 - Running, jumping, climbing, playing ball and exploring
 - Listening to and discussing books and stories
 - Learning some letters, numbers and shapes
 - Talking about animals, plants, family members and the community
 - Expressing himself through music, art and dance



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Resources

- Maryland State Department of Education: www.marylandpublicschools.org
- R4K: www.earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/prek-grade-2/maryland-early-learning-framework/ready-4-kindergarten
- School Readiness Data: www.readyatfive.org
- Zero To Three: www.zerotothree.org; click on School Readiness Interactive
- Ready At Five: www.readyatfive.org
- United States Department of Education: www.ED.gov
www.childresource.org



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Early Experiences Matter!

"The early development of cognitive skills, emotional well-being, social competence, and sound physical and mental health builds a strong foundation for success well into the adult years."

-National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, the Science of Early Development Report.



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Any Questions?

Thanks for coming!

Please complete an evaluation.



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