



29 THINGS PARENTS DO THAT PREDICT SCHOOL READINESS

Below are 29 things parents do with their young children, ages 10 - 47 months, that predict one or more of the following outcomes when children are old enough to start kindergarten:

Cognitive skills (problem solving, reasoning, science, and math readiness)

Vocabulary (word knowledge, language ability)

Literacy skills (recognizing letter, linking speech sounds to letters, recognizing text)

Social skills (emotion regulation, low rates of aggression)

Our research, on over 4,000 observations of almost 2,000 families, shows that very few parents do all of these things, but all parents do some of these things. And the more parents do these things, the better their children do on school readiness assessments. PICCOLO™ is an observational measure of these behaviors.

SHOW AFFECTION

- Speak warmly
- Smile at child
- Praise child
- Stay physically close to child
- Say positive things to child
- Interact in positive ways with child
- Show emotional warmth

GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT

- Wait for child's response after making a suggestion
- Encourage child to do things with toys
- Support child's choice
- Help child do things on his or her own
- Verbally encourage child's efforts
- Offer suggestions to help child
- Show enthusiasm about what child does

BE RESPONSIVE

- Pay attention to what child is doing
- Change activities to meet child's interests or needs
- Be flexible when child changes interests
- Follow what child is trying to do
- Respond to child's emotions
- Looks at child when child talks or makes sounds
- Reply to child's words or sounds

TEACH

- Explain reasons for something to child
- Suggest activities to build on what child is doing
- Repeat or expand child's words or sounds
- Label objects or actions for child
- Engage in pretend play with child
- Do activities in a sequence of steps
- Talk about characteristics of objects
- Ask child for information