



Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school.



## Reading Readiness

Our goal is that your child can:

- recognize his or her first and last name in print
- write their first name with a capital and lower case letters

Your child can practice writing their name by using magnetic letters, clay, or shaving cream.

- recognize at least 26 letters of the alphabet in random order (can be upper or lower)  
*Look for letters and words on real-world objects such as cereal boxes, signs, magazines, etc.*

- tell the sounds that 20 or more letters make
- hear that words are broken up into smaller parts

Sing songs. Songs have different notes for each syllable in a word, so children can hear the different sounds in words.

- recognize words that rhyme  
*Say nursery rhymes and make up your own silly, nonsense rhymes.*

- hear when words begin with the same sounds

Play word games such as, "What sounds like 'ran'?" or "What starts with the same sound as 'ball'?"

- hold a book correctly and understand that printed words have meaning

Let your child turn the pages. Let your child hold the book and turn the pages. Hold the book upside down. See if your child turns the book around.

- retell familiar stories, songs and poems  
*Read a book that you have read before. Switch what you do—you be the listener and let your child tell you the story.*

## Language Development

Children learn to communicate best by participating in conversations and interactions about things that interest them. Parents have the greatest power to help their child build language and literacy skills.

## Math Readiness

Our end of year goal is that your child can:

- recognize the colors blue, red, green, yellow, orange, brown, purple, black, gray, pink and white  
*Explore outdoors for shapes and colors.*

- name and recognize square, circle, triangle, rectangle and hexagons

*At the grocery store, go on a circle hunt and have your child find all of the circles they can.*

- recognize numbers 0-10 in random order  
*Look for numbers on appliances, in stores, or in books.*

- count to 25

*Count out-loud with your child while waiting for something to cook or while stopped at a red light.*

- correctly count 15 objects

*Count the stairs, shoes, keys and other things you use or see every day.*

- place numbers 1-10 in order

- recognize simple patterns and extend them

*Sing songs that rhyme, repeat, or have numbers in them. Songs reinforce patterns and are a fun way to practice language.*

- sort objects by one characteristic and tell why

*Ask your child to find objects around the house or in books that are the same.*

Our end of the year goal is that your child can:

- speak in complete sentences  
*Help your child repeat your longer phrases when having a conversation. When your child talks with you, add more detail to what he or she says.*

- ask questions

*Ask questions that call for more than a "yes" or "no" answer (such as "what do you think?") and listen to your child's responses.*

- use new words in their vocabulary

*When your child hears a word they don't know, explain what it means and practice ways to use the word.*

- engage in conversations and class discussions

*While driving or riding on the bus, ask your child to tell you what they hear or see.*

*Keep them focused on the conversations by asking questions such as, "what color is the car next to us?", "where are we going today?", and "what store do you see across the street?"*

*Basic math and number concepts utilized in a preschool classroom set the foundation for learning more advanced math concepts. Early exposure to math and number activities will promote your child's comfort with these skills.*



# Social-Emotional Development

In addition to learning letters and numbers, it is important for preschoolers to learn behaviors and work habits that will help them be successful members of a school system.

- Follows class and school rules
- Respects the diversity, rights, feelings and property of adults and students
- Demonstrates self regulation

*Help your child learn how to relax and calm self.*

*Then ask your child to quietly express their needs and feelings.*

- Interacts and works cooperatively with classmates and teachers

*Model fair ways to take turns and share. Model comforting a child who is hurt or upset.*

- Tells adults about needs, concerns and feelings

*Using language to identify, label, and respect feelings as well as learning to manage emotions.*

- Follows one, two, and three step direction

*Have your child practice small chores around the house after you have provided multiple step directions.*

- Shows curiosity and motivation

*Play question and answer games that inspire your child's curiosity.*

- Demonstrates independence

*Give your child opportunities to make choices.*

- Shows persistence

*By giving kids a chance to fail, also give them the pleasure of succeeding on their own.*

*Our preschool progress report has been developed to reflect key kindergarten readiness skills in reading, math, language development and social-emotional development. This progress report will provide parents with detailed information about their child's progress in mastering preschool level skills. Your child's progress toward mastering our preschool standards will be monitored by the classroom teacher and reported to you three times a year. We've also included some tips for supporting these skills at home. For more information, please visit: [www.del.wa.gov](http://www.del.wa.gov).*

## Free Preschool Programs

### Title I Program

Language rich preschool program for children who live in the attendance area of any Tacoma Title I school.

Title I Preschool offers 2 half-day sessions, Monday through Friday.

### Peer Inclusion Program:

4 year-old children that reside in Tacoma SD participate in Special Education Preschool programs as role models for their classmates.

### Head Start Program

Head Start provides a quality preschool program and offers nutritional, medical, dental and family support services.

### Early Childhood and Assistance Program

Our \*ECEAP has preschool activities for children, including a meal, snack and transportation. Classes are Monday through Thursday, 2-1/2 hours per day.

\*ECEAP involves the whole family and offers health, nutritional and social services support.

### Early Learning

**601 South 8th Street**

**Tacoma WA 98405**

**253-571-1049**



## A Family's Guide to Kindergarten Readiness

Early Learning  
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**TACOMA**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
*EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.*