

Louisiana's Kindergarten Readiness Definition

To ensure that all Louisiana's children enter kindergarten ready to learn, this definition focuses on "readiness of the child" across the domains of child development, as identified in the *Louisiana Standards for Programs Serving Four-Year-Old Children*.

At the beginning of kindergarten, it is expected that children will demonstrate:

Cognitive abilities, which include knowledge and skills in:

- early literacy, such as phonological awareness, print concepts, alphabetic understanding, vocabulary, listening comprehension, and emergent writing
- basic numeracy concepts, such as rote counting and number awareness, sorting, classifying, comparing, patterning, and spatial relationships

Basic science concepts, such as making observations, exploring the world using their senses, and using appropriate scientific vocabulary related to topics

Basic social studies concepts, such as self-awareness and their relationship to family and community, and an awareness of money and time

Response to and participation in music, movement, visual and dramatic arts experiences and activities

Abilities, either assisted or unassisted, that show an awareness of health, hygiene, and environmental hazards, in addition to gross and fine motor skills

Social and emotional competencies, including self-regulation, self-identity, self-reliance, respect for others, and interpersonal skills



Lafourche Parish Head Start-Assessment:

Teaching Strategies GOLD areas of development and learning objectives were aligned to meet the HS Framework and Louisiana Kindergarten Readiness goals.



Child progress is assessed three times per year and shared with parents.

Children identified as meeting special education qualifications will work on meeting the objectives outlined in their IEP, as well as the Head Start school readiness goals.



For More Information
1-800-794-3160
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Lafourche Parish Head Start Approach to School Readiness

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Head Start defines school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school.



Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework

Our program's main goal is to prepare children to enter kindergarten with the skills and abilities necessary to succeed in school. The key to reaching this goal is to ensure that our program is high-quality and that families are ready to support their children's learning.



The Lafourche Parish Head Start program addresses all school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, and approaches toward learning.

The following is a guide for parents to determine how their child is doing with school readiness.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Listens attentively and responds to stories and books

Holds a book correctly

Speaks in complete sentences

Can write name

Can recite rhymes and sing children's songs

Writes using drawings and some letters/numbers

Answers questions

COGNITION /GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Counts

Identifies and names at least 4 basic shapes

Can identify numerals 0 to 10

Can match a set of objects to the correct numeral

Can sort objects



PHYSICAL WELL-BEING/MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

Can hold and use a pencil, marker, crayon, etc. appropriately

Holds scissors correctly and cuts straight or curved lines

Puts together ten- to twelve-piece puzzles

Runs, jumps, and hops

Bounces, catches, kicks, and throws a ball

Walks in a straight line forwards and backwards

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Expresses wants and needs

Tries new things

Follows directions, simple rules and routines

Takes turns and shares with others

Can dress self and manage own bathroom needs

Can control impulses

APPROACHES TOWARD LEARNING

Shows interest in a variety of activities

Shows eagerness to learn

Demonstrates persistence



HOW CAN PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILD?

Work with your child on recognizing letters of the alphabet, numbers and colors in things that they see everyday

Provide paper, pencils and crayons for your child to draw and write

Ask your child to "read" a favorite book to you

Help your child learn to write his/her own first name

Talk with your child and listen carefully to your child; this will encourage your child to talk and develop verbal skills

Work with your child to understand why things are the same and different

Help your child count objects while he/she is playing or helping with household chores

Sing and play rhyming games; this will encourage language development

Allow your child to perform tasks on his/her own, such as pouring juice or milk, buttoning and zipping his/her own clothes, toileting and washing hands, etc.

Limit the amount of time your child watches television, plays video games, uses the computer, etc.

Help your child identify body parts

Teach your child his/her full name, address and telephone/cell phone number

