

# School Readiness Goals



The Head Start Approach to School Readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning and schools are ready for children. The following goals are the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and life.

## **Approaches to Learning**

1. Children will demonstrate levels of attention, emotion, behavior and flexibility, that are appropriate to the situation/environment and utilize the supports available.
2. Children will persist with completing a task or activity before moving on, especially difficult or non-preferred tasks.
3. Children will create and play to help learn and understand the world around them.
4. Children will increase their skills in remembering and using information and being aware of their own thinking.

## **Social Emotional**

5. Children will participate in consistent and positive relationships and use familiar adults as resources.
6. Children will use strategies to deal with problems and will seek assistance from an adult, as needed.
7. Children will develop a sense of self, separate from others and understand how they work in the networks of relationships and the world around them.

## **Language and Literacy**

8. Children will understand the purposes of language (verbal & non-verbal) and use it to meet their needs.
9. Children will understand, use and make signs and symbols to convey meaning.
10. Children will attend to sounds and discriminate between sounds.

## **Cognition, Math and Science**

11. Children will use math skills to understand and manipulate their environment.
12. Children will use observation, manipulation, asking questions, making prediction, and developing hypothesis to get a better understanding of information and activities in their surroundings.

## **Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development**

13. Children will use their senses to understand and manipulate their environment.
14. Children will demonstrate increasing control and coordination of small and large muscle development.

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## How will we achieve the goals?

- Partnerships with families through parent engagement
- Shared school readiness goals and continued collaboration with school districts
- Use a comprehensive evidence-based curriculum -Creative Curriculum Gold
- Commitment to ongoing child assessment to determine opportunities for learning-Teaching Strategies Gold
- Developmentally appropriate practices and play based environments
- Recruiting and retaining highly trained teachers and staff. Work with other staff to continue professional development.
- Use a whole child approach that focuses on health, nutrition, and classroom learning.
- Provide comprehensive full day programming
- Ongoing monitoring and goal setting based on the needs of children and families

## How are we going to know that children have accomplished the goals?

- We will use The Teaching Strategies GOLD Assessment system to measure the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that are most predictive of school success. The tool has 38 objectives, including 2 objectives related to English language acquisition.
- Teacher observations of each child will be conducted a minimum of 3 times per year: the first will be completed by mid-October to gain a baseline for the student; the second will be done mid-year (approximately February) to measure progress and identify any areas of need; and the third in May to assess progress throughout the school year.
- Classrooms will have three data meetings per year to strategize individual development and classroom needs to focus on opportunities for development.
- Teachers and assistants work with the program Coach focusing on teaching strategies, classroom management, self-reflection and goal setting.
- Parents will have four parent-teacher conferences per year, two home visits and two classroom meetings, to discuss their child's development and goal setting for future learning.
- Home to school activities will focus on individual school readiness goals of the child and promoting a love of reading for families.