

What School Readiness Programs Need to Know and Do

KNOW	DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy strategies for young children • Kindergarten health requirements • Kindergarten standards • Parent rights and responsibilities under No Child Left Behind • How the local elementary school works • The importance of parents teaching their children • How to read API and CST scores • ELL designation process for their local school district • Cultural differences (i.e. immigrant families, teen mothers, etc.) • School readiness program's system of beliefs • Strengths of staff members • Demographics of families • Parent resources • Child development- (i.e. developmental milestones) • How to work with families of different cultures • Language acquisition • How to report child abuse • Licensing regulations • Appropriate clothing for staff in the workplace • How to access services for families • Parents' education level, barriers and challenges • How to facilitate boundaries with families • Child's vaccination history/record • How to be sensitive to parent's needs, religion, and culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide family literacy workshops • Enroll families in healthcare • Conduct a kindergarten academy to help families transition • Teach parents how to navigate the K-12 system • Develop relationships with elementary school staff • Provide parents with the tools and resources to be their child's first teacher • Set-up transition activities with the local elementary school • Help parents understand how the local school is doing • Assist parents in navigating the ELL system • Create good work habits among staff • Assess family's background and set family's goals • Provide parenting workshops that are relevant to needs of families • Support staff strengths (i.e. professional development, conferences, etc.) • Act as liaisons between parents and school/organizations • Provide interactive activities/games • Advocate for parents and children • Create a parent handbook (i.e. calendar, standards, etc.) • Walk through school application samples with parents • Provide un-bias services to families • Be respectful, responsive and reciprocal • Offer case-management • Provide resources/ linkages (tools and reading materials) • Reinforce self-sufficiency among families