



★ Early Essentials ★

## Quick Start Guide for School Readiness for Infants and Toddlers

### Know the Essentials

- There are five essential domains in the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework: social and emotional development, physical development and health, cognition and general knowledge, language development and literacy, and approaches to learning. Learning and development in these five essential domains is holistic and integrated. Families are the most important people in their child's life.
- Infants and toddlers have their own learning agenda and need adults to be facilitators, allowing them to safely explore and develop competence.
- Through secure relationships with infants and very young children, adults play a critical role in providing safe and nurturing environments that support explorations and learning.
- Routines and experiences provide the setting for young children's development and learning.

### Take a Deeper Look

- How do you facilitate each individual child's learning and development based on their stage of growth – infant, mobile infant, or toddler? How do you build a relationship with a new family and baby?
- How do you use your relationship with a child and the child's family to support the child's exploration?
- How do you use everyday routines to support each child's development and learning?
- What types of experiences do you provide to support each child's development and learning?

### Explore Resources

- Review ***School Readiness Goals for Infants and Toddlers in Head Start and Early Head Start Programs: Examples from the Early Head Start National Resource Center*** at: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/school-readiness/examples.htm> (available in Spanish at: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Espanol/esp-ehs/ehs/desarrollo-infantil/Metasdelaprepa.htm>)
- Explore ***Head Start Approach to School Readiness*** at: [http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach/pdf/OHSApproach-to-School-Readiness\\_complete.pdf](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/sr/approach/pdf/OHSApproach-to-School-Readiness_complete.pdf)
- View the podcast and info sheet ***A Quick Look: Recent EHS NRC Resources to Assist You in Thinking About School Readiness for Infants and Toddlers*** at: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/school-readiness/AQuickLookRec.htm>
- Read ***News You Can Use Approaches Toward Learning-Foundations of School Readiness Part 1*** at: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/school-readiness/nycuschoolread01.htm>
- Read ***Early Head Start Tip Sheet No. 10 How can an EHS program have a written curriculum with lesson plans and still follow the baby's lead as he/she creates his/her own curriculum?*** at: [http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/curriculum/intodd\\_fts\\_00010\\_070805.html](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/cde/curriculum/intodd_fts_00010_070805.html)