

Links to

Resources and Activity Ideas for Early Learning and School Readiness

Maryland Committee for Children offers:

School Readiness

Information on kindergarten assessment (the Work Sampling System) and activity ideas to help young children build the skills they will need to succeed in school.

http://mdchildcare.org/mdcfc/for_parents/parentsmmsr.html

Tips for Working Parents

Being a working parent has its own special challenges and rewards. The 2004 “Tips” includes sections on infant development and toddler development, along with practical solutions to the everyday problems of balancing work and family.

<http://mdchildcare.org/mdcfc/pdfs/tips.pdf>

Choosing Child Care: How to Find the Right Care for Your Child

Child care can be a wonderful and enriching experience for your child. A child care provider who is warm and supportive will help your child learn by providing activities that are right for your child at each age and stage of development.

http://mdchildcare.org/mdcfc/for_parents/choosing.html

Ready at Five offers:

Parent Tips

ParentTips is a new monthly series designed especially for parents of young children. ParentTips provides you with information and fun tips for building your child's skills and abilities. Just a few minutes everyday will help your child be ready to succeed in school! <http://www.readyatfive.org/resources/tips.html>

Activity Boxes

Help your child start kindergarten ready to succeed! Put together a School Readiness Activity Box. These 7 Activity Boxes with over 35 "hands-on" activities, will help you make learning fun. http://www.readyatfive.org/activities/activity_box.html

Parents Matter Cards

Parents play an important role in improving the school readiness of young children. These cards provide parents with essential information and tips on how to:

“Talk to Your Child” <http://www.readyatfive.org/images/pdfs/pmcardtalk.pdf>

“Read to Your Child” <http://www.readyatfive.org/images/pdfs/pmcardread.pdf>

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) offers:

Maryland Model for School Readiness: The Five MMSR Components in Action

This site provides an overview of MSDE’s implementation of the state’s program to enhance school readiness for all children in Maryland. Information includes an overview of MMSR and sections on classroom instructions, assessment, communication with families, coordination with early learning programs and initiatives, and integrated staff development activities.

<http://www.mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/MMSR/index.html>

Zero to Three offers:

Parenting A to Z

A virtual encyclopedia of information on topics from adoption to independence to school readiness, all for children ages birth to three. http://www.zerotothree.org/ztt_parents.html

Tip of the Week

Tips on topics ranging from curiosity to reading together to the importance of play

http://www.zerotothree.org/ztt_parents.html

Brain Wonders

How the brain developments, within the context of relationships, from conception through three years of age. <http://www.zerotothree.org/brainwonders/>

The Magic of Everyday Moments

Loving and learning through everyday moments, with separate information for ages 0 to 4 months, 4 to 6 months, 6 to 9 months, 9 to 12 months, and 12 to 15 months.

<http://www.zerotothree.org/magic/>

National Association for the Education of Young Children Offers:

Early Years Are Learning Years: Make Them Count!

This is an extensive series of short articles designed for parents and other adults involved with children on a daily basis. Parents can choose from topics such as “Helping Toddlers Become Problem Solvers” to “Learning Through Water Play” to “Math Through Play” and “Emotional Literacy” and many more topics.

<http://www.naeyc.org/resources/eily/>

Talaris Institute offers:

Research Spotlights

Talaris offers "crib notes" on early brain development – with special emphasis on emotional development. Talaris has reviewed and synthesized an array of discoveries to provide parents with information rooted in scientific findings on how children think, feel, and learn. Topics include: Recognizing Baby's Cues -- Birth to 1 year; Infant Emotions - Birth to 6 months; Infant Sleep Patterns - Birth to 1 year; Imitative Behavior and Memory - Birth to 2 years; Stranger Anxiety - Birth to 2 years, and others. For a links to all the Research Spotlights, go to <http://www.talaris.org/synopsis.htm>

“What Am I Feeling?: The Five Steps of Emotion Coaching”

Emotion Coaching is a way to help children handle their feelings. Parents can help children learn how emotions work and how to behave in healthy ways when feelings are strong. http://www.talaris.org/spotlight_emocoaching_steps.htm

Parents Action offers:

Parenting videos and DVDs, including :

The First Years Last Forever

Hosted by Rob Reiner (English) and Gloria Estefan (Spanish) this introductory video provides information on the importance of bonding, communication, health, nutrition, child care, and other issues discussed in the video series.

Ready to Learn

Hosted by LeVar Burton, Jamie Lee Curtis (English), and Edward James Olmos (Spanish) lead a discussion on the importance of early literacy and show parents and caregivers how to help young children develop language skills through everyday activities like talking, singing and playing.

To Be A Father

Hosted by Ray Romano in English and Antonio Banderas in Spanish, this video features information on what fathers can do to help promote and participate in their young children's healthy development.

To purchase these or other parenting videos and DVDs, visit <http://www.parentsaction.org>

U.S. Department of Education offers:

Healthy Start, Grow Smart series

This series offers a separate overview for each of the first twelve months of a baby's life. The main focus is on health and physical care, such as feeding and bathing. However, there is also information on "ages and stages" and learning.

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/healthystart/index.html>

Your Local Library offers:

A treasure trove of free resources for families. Libraries offer storytimes for children of all ages from birth on up, accompanied by games, crafts, music, and tips for parents on ways to share stories and language with their pre-schooler. Every library has an almost endless collection of children's books, CDs, DVDs, videos, and recorded books to borrow -- as well as parenting books and resources. Most libraries publish a calendar of events. Parents can find the location and hours of libraries by going to the statewide website and selecting their county: http://directory.sailor.lib.md.us/pub_use/county_map.cfm

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