

## Session 8: Let's Get Ready for School Recommended Reading & Resources



### RECOMMENDED READING:

#### **The Good School How Smart Parents Get Their Kids the Education They Deserve**

By: Peg Tyre: Henry Holt & Company. (2011)

#### **The Importance of Being Little What Young Children Really Need From Grownups**

By: Erika Christakis: Viking. (2016)

#### **The Most Important Year Pre-Kindergarten and the Future of Our Children** By:

Suzanne Bouffard: Avery/Penguin (2017)



### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

#### **American Academy of Pediatrics: The Link Between School Attendance and Good Health**

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/143/2/e20183648>

#### **Attendance Works: Data Matters Using Chronic Absence to Accelerate Action for Student Success**

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/data-matters/>

#### **Buenos principios: Latino children in the earliest years of life.**

##### **By: Unidos US**

<http://publications.unidosus.org/handle/123456789/1212>

#### **Child Care Aware: Selecting a Child Care Program**

<http://www.childcareaware.org/selecting-child-care-program/>

#### **Colorin Colorado: How to Support Immigrant Students and Families: Strategies for Schools and Early Childhood Programs**

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/immigration/guide>

#### **Colorin Colorado: School Success**

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/school-success>

#### **First 5 LA - Picking a Preschool**

<https://www.first5la.org/parenting/articles/picking-a-preschool/>

#### **First 5 LA - Five Ways to Advocate for Your Child with Special Needs**

<https://www.first5la.org/parenting/articles/first-5-las-five-ways-to-advocate-for-your-child-with-special-needs/>

## Session 8: Let's Get Ready for School

### Recommended Reading & Resources



#### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES (CONTINUED):

##### **Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center**

How do I apply for Head Start and Early Head Start?

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/how-apply>

##### **IDRA Infographic – Welcoming Immigrant Students in School**

<https://www.idra.org/resource-center/idra-infographic-welcoming-immigrant-students-in-school/>

##### **La Comadre: An Action Plan to Start Off Strong With the Right Kindergarten Class and Support at Home**

<http://lacomadre.org/2019/01/an-action-plan-to-start-off-strong-with-the-right-kindergarten-class-and-support-at-home/>

##### **National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families: Research Priority Areas for Understanding and Improving Access to Early Care and Education (ECE) for Children in Low-Income Hispanic Families**

<http://www.hispanicresearchcenter.org/publications/research-brief-synthesis-ece-access-for-children-in-low-income-hispanic-families/>

##### **Parent Toolkit by NBC News and supported by Pearson**

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/grade-levels/early-education/early-education?lang=en>

##### **Ready4K: Evidence-based text messages for families**

[www.ready4k.com](http://www.ready4k.com)

##### **Why Family Engagement Matters for Student and School Success**

By: Global Family Research Project and National PTA's Center for Family Engagement

<https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Why-Family-Engagement-Matters-for-Student-and-School-Success>

## Participant Handout: Selecting an Early Care & Education Program Checklist:



### STEP 1: Find Out What Options Are Available

- Parent/Caregiver and Child Playgroups
- Family Child Care Home
- Child Care Center
- Preschool
- Other programs (Family Centers, Library programs, Community agencies, etc)



### STEP 2: Think About The Needs of Your Family

#### Child's Needs?

- Special needs or learning disabilities
- Language needs
- Health needs
- Educational enrichment
- Learning styles

#### Family's Needs?

- Child care subsidy or publicly funded
- Hours of care, pick up policies
- Language needs (bilingual staff)
- Siblings attend/attended
- Transportation

**What are the top 3 things that matter most to our family when choosing an early learning program?**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_



### STEP #3: Find Out More About the Early Care Resources and Education Program That Interests You from:

- Your local child care resource and referral agency
- Program website and other sites
- Visit the site in person
- Meetings with staff and ask questions
- Brochures
- Talking to other parents



### Ask specifically about:

- Daily schedule and activities
- Child-provider ratio (and other licensing requirements)
- Nap time policies and area
- Illness policies
- Emergency procedures and CPR training
- Staff experience and training
- Cost



### When visiting, observe the staff's interactions with the children:

Are staff involved with the children, talking to them at their level? \_\_\_\_\_

Do they genuinely seem to care about children? \_\_\_\_\_

Do they take time to really listen to them? \_\_\_\_\_

Do they respect them? \_\_\_\_\_

Do they help the children to resolve conflicts with one another when there is a problem? \_\_\_\_\_



### Learn about how to enroll your child at an early care and education program:

What documents are required? (e.g., birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency) \_\_\_\_\_

When is the application deadline? \_\_\_\_\_

How will the application be submitted? \_\_\_\_\_

Do any schools have a special procedure? (e.g., wait list, priority categories)?  
If yes, what is it? \_\_\_\_\_

### Participant Handout: Selecting a Kindergarten Checklist:



#### STEP 1: Find Out What Options Are Available

- Traditional Public School
- Charter School
- Private School
- Specialized programs (Magnet, Bilingual, etc)



#### STEP 2: Think About The Needs of Your Family

##### Child's Needs?

- Special needs or learning disabilities
- Language needs
- Health needs
- Educational enrichment
- Learning styles

##### Family's Needs?

- After school child care
- Before school child care
- Language needs (bilingual staff)
- Siblings attend or attended school
- Transportation
- Tuition support for private school

**What are the top 3 things that matter most to our family when choosing a school?**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_



#### STEP 3: Find Out More About the School That Interests You From:

- Informational sessions
- School or district website
- School tours / Open houses
- What are the academic expectations of kindergarten
- Meetings with teachers
- Visit the school
- Community events
- Talking to parents and students
- Review sites such as GreatSchools.org
- Ask about the school's safety and emergency procedures



**STEP 4: Find Out More About How to Enroll Your Child at the School**

Does the school district offer a Transition to Kindergarten program? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the birthday cut-off date for kindergarten? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which documents are required? (e.g., birth certificate, immunization records) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When is the application deadline? \_\_\_\_\_

How will the application be submitted? \_\_\_\_\_

What, if any, are the tuition costs of your child attending this school?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do any schools have a special procedure? (e.g., lottery, permit)? If yes, what is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Assessments prior to the first day of school? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Participant Handout: Tips on Communicating With Your Child's Teacher and School



**Here are some expert tips on how to communicate effectively with your child's teacher and school.**

- Be respectful, but also assertive and persistent when you are communicating with your child's teacher and school about your child's needs.
- Join parent groups, and if you have common concerns, find ways to work together to have your voice heard. There is strength in numbers.
- Keep your child's educational records. Share their records from preschool with their child's teacher.
- Focus on solutions and putting in place a plan for improvement that you can work on together. Follow up regularly after the meeting to see how the plan going.
- Share your child's strengths, capabilities, and interests with their teacher and the school administrators so that they can get to know them better.
- Know the system - go to school meetings, talk to school staff, and contact your local school district office to learn more about how to address your child's needs. Ask a lot of questions!
- Visit your child's classroom and observe what and how the children are taught.
- Talk with your child's teacher and other school staff regularly, and if possible, volunteer at your child's school. Getting to know the school staff will help you to advocate for your child.
- Document your concerns, your meeting with your child's teacher, what has been agreed and a specific timeline.