

## For More Information

about early learning programs in West Virginia, including **Find My WV Pre-K**, contact the West Virginia Department of Education's **Office of Early Learning** at 304.558.9994, or visit [www.readysetgowv.com](http://www.readysetgowv.com)

## Resources

**WVDE Office of Early Learning**  
[wvde.state.wv.us/oel/](http://wvde.state.wv.us/oel/)

**WV Birth to Three Services**  
1.866.321.4RAU

**Preschool Special Education Services**  
1.800.642.8541

**WVDHHR Early Care & Education**  
[www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/ece/](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/ece/)

**West Virginia Head Start Association**  
[www.wvheadstart.org](http://www.wvheadstart.org)

**West Virginia Home Visiting**  
[www.wvdhhr.wv.gov/helpmegrow/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.wvdhhr.wv.gov/helpmegrow/Pages/default.aspx)



## How can I help my child be successful?

### Four Important Family Commitments:

- Make sure your 3-6 year old child gets at least approximately 10 hours of sleep per night;
- Read to your child at least 20 minutes each day;
- Use positive discipline (Say 3 positive things for every 1 negative or correcting statement.); and
- Spend quality time talking with your child each day.

*Source: adapted from [www.ceelo.org](http://www.ceelo.org)  
American Academy of Pediatrics • [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)*



## West Virginia Universal Pre-K & Kindergarten

## A FAMILY'S GUIDE to SCHOOL READINESS

West Virginia Department of Education  
Office of Early Learning

# Introduction

The West Virginia Board of Education, in collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Education and many other national, state, and local groups, believes strongly that the first years of a child's life and schooling are very important and can establish solid foundations for lifelong learning. School readiness in West Virginia includes all the different areas of learning and growth of your child, such as their:

- health and physical development;
- social and emotional development;
- language and communication;
- cognition and general knowledge; and
- their individual approaches to learning.

Children enter school with varied levels of skills and learning experiences. All children deserve the chance to engage in a high-quality WV Universal Pre-K and Kindergarten Program.

This resource is provided for families of young children who are entering WV Universal Pre-K or WV Kindergarten Programs for the first time to help strengthen the connection between children, families and schools.



## Is my child eligible?

The following are guidelines for families enrolling their child in a WV Universal Pre-K or Kindergarten Program:

- Age requirements:
  - 4 years old prior to September 1 for WV Universal Pre-K Programs
  - 5 years old prior to September 1 for WV Kindergarten Programs
- A copy of an original birth certificate certified by the state's registrar of vital statistics is needed to enroll;
- A valid HealthCheck, dental evaluation and immunization records are also needed to enroll;
- Your child's family physician can enter all immunization records into a state database (WVSIIS). Each school can review and print these records for school entry;
- Should your child still be catching up on their vaccinations or well-child exam, please work closely with the school nurse.

## What should I expect of my child's early learning experience?

WV Pre-K and Kindergarten Programs should be fun for children to attend! Here are a few key indicators of a high-quality early learning experience:

- An inviting classroom where children can learn through active exploration and experimentation;
- An active classroom where children are busy learning through play;
- Lots of conversations throughout the day with other children and adults;
- A schedule that allows large blocks of time for children to learn about topics that interest them;
- A teacher and teacher assistant(s) who interact with children to support and extend their learning;
- A program where children can actively play, talk, and work with other children;
- An integrated use of grade level content standards and objectives to assure children develop solid foundations for learning; and
- Evidence of children's learning across all areas of development, which will be shared with families throughout the school year.

