

Resources for Families and Providers

Back to School Edition

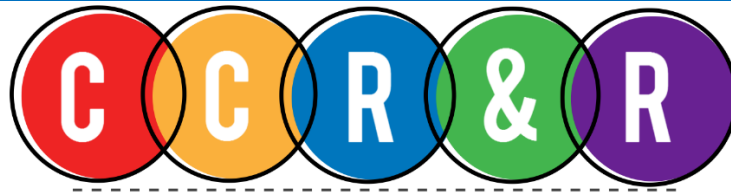
FAMILY SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S LEARNING

It's "Back to School" time in Florida and many families may need resources to support their children's learning at home. Included in this edition are activities and information to make it easy for families to use play and everyday routines to help their children be successful in school. The [Office of Early Learning](#) has a "[Back to School](#)" page with resources for families to prepare their children for school and for continued support of their learning during the school year.



Many families have questions about their children's readiness to begin school or transition from child care or preschool programs to kindergarten. The [Back to School](#) page offers resources to address many of the questions they may have about school readiness, such as:

- **Is my child healthy and ready to start school?**
- **Is my 4-year-old child ready for VPK?**
- **Is my child ready for "Big School" (kindergarten)?**
- **How do I help my child learn to read and write at home?**
- **How do I help my child learn STEAM skills at home?**



Resources for Families and Providers

PreK → K

Transition to Kindergarten



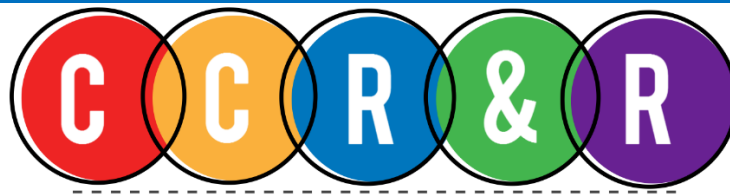
The Office of Early Learning's [Transition to Kindergarten](#) page offers resources for families, schools and communities to make the transition to "Big School" much easier for their children.

Transition refers to the totality of experiences and opportunities a child encounters in moving from one program or setting to another. Opportunities and experiences that familiarize children and families with new settings, expectations and relationships can help make connections that ease adjustments. When transitions are effective they provide the supports children need to make these adjustments. When children make successful transitions they:

- Enjoy school and look forward to going.
- Show steady growth in academic and social skills.
- Have families who are more actively engaged in their learning.



Families of children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program or other preschool programs can download the [Kindergarten Matters! Ready Freddy calendar](#). This calendar provides fun activities for families to support their children's learning at home and can help their children get ready for kindergarten. The activities are aligned with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for 4 year olds



Resources for Families and Providers

Florida's Early Learning and Developmental Standards

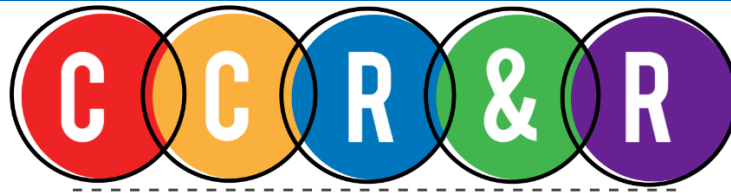


The Domains of Florida's Early Learning and Developmental Standards

-  **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**
(general health and development of physical skills involving large and small muscles)
-  **APPROACHES TO LEARNING**
(attitudes, behaviors and learning styles)
-  **SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
(the ability to establish and maintain positive relationships with others)
-  **LANGUAGE & LITERACY**
(the ability to understand words, learn to talk and learn about books and reading)
-  **MATHEMATICAL THINKING**
(the ability to think about relationships between objects, numbers, shapes, sizes, weights and other concepts)
-  **SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY**
(the ability to explore the environment using the five senses, connecting what is observed to science concepts and asking questions)
-  **SOCIAL STUDIES**
(the ability to learn about people and the community)
-  **CREATIVE EXPRESSION THROUGH THE ARTS**
(the ability to engage in dance, song, music, dramatic play and art to express ideas and feelings)

A child's development of values, learning skills and social skills begins at birth. Each child's learning and development starts at home. [The Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards](#) help families support their children's learning and development from birth to age five. Standards and benchmarks reflect the knowledge and skills that a child on a typical developmental progression should know and be able to do at the end of an age-related timeframe. The resources provided on the Office of Early Learning's (OEL) website help families understand how their child grows and develops. Families can use the activities and information to extend their child's learning at home.

The [Families](#) page allows a parent to find information and activities appropriate for the age of their child. Apps, videos, and other websites that help parents support the standards are available for parents on the page as well.



Resources for Families and Providers

Resources to Support Children's Learning at Home For Bilingual Families

Below are bilingual parent resources offer tips on helping your child learn to read, succeed in school, and learn a new language. They also provide information about the U.S. school system and share ideas on how to build a relationship with your child's teacher and school.

In addition, you can find fun reading tips and games, bilingual booklists, ideas for using the public library, and videos of children's authors, illustrators, and musicians. The resources are organized by topic. There are 10 topics and multiple resources for each topic. Below is a sampling of the topics and resources available for families. There are also many resources for schools and preschools.

- [Help Your Child Learn to Read](#)
- [Learning Together at Home](#)
- [The Preschool Years](#)
- [School Success](#)
- [The Importance of Home Language Series](#)

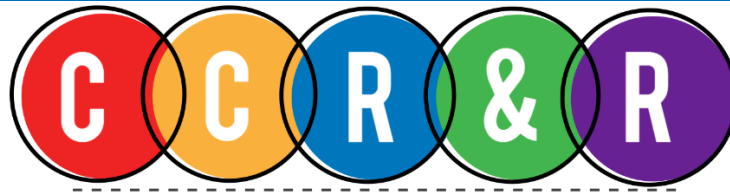


[Dual Language Learners Toolkit](#)

This toolkit provides resources that can be used to support young children who are learning their home languages and English. It is divided into three sections: administrators and managers; teachers, caregivers, and family services staff; and families.

There is an [introductory video](#) and resources appropriate for three different audiences:

- [Administrators and Managers](#)
- [Teachers, Caregivers, and Family Service Staff](#)
- [Families](#)



Resources for Families and Providers

Resources for Families of Children with Different Abilities

Many families of children with different abilities will need support in finding resources for their children. There are many challenges they face in locating reliable and accurate health, educational, and social-emotional resources that are a good match for their child. **Reading Rockets** and **Understood** are websites that have many resources created specifically for these families. The resources below offer a variety of insights, activities and suggestions for these families.

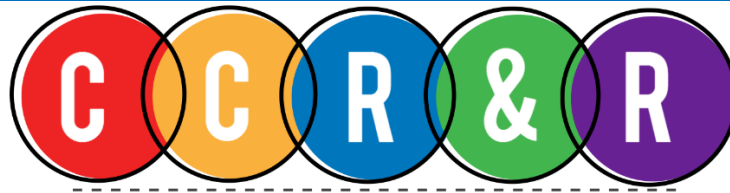
Reading Rockets

- [Growing Young Readers: What Matters in Early Literacy](#)
- [Helping Struggling Readers](#)
- [Videos by Topic](#)
- [Autism and Asperger's](#)
- [Reading Rockets' Newsletters for Parents](#)
- [Back to School for Parents](#)
- [Back to School Tips for Parents of Children with Special Needs](#)
- [Start with a Book](#)
- [Assistive Technology](#)
- [Looking at Reading Interventions – Video Series](#)
- [Motivation](#)
- [Assistive Technology](#)
- [Parenting Children Ages 6 - 8](#)
- [Father Effect](#)
- [Empowering Parents](#)



Understood for Learning and Attention Issues

- [Understanding Your Child's Challenges](#)
- [Learning and Attention Issues](#)
- [When Grandparents Are Caregivers or Guardians of Kids with Learning and Attention Issues](#)
- [Social Situations](#)
- [How to Help Preschoolers with Learning and Attention Issues Handle School Cliques](#)
- [Your Child's Rights](#)



Resources for Families and Providers



ABOUT

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EN ESPAÑOL

Sesame Street® Learning Resources

Fostering fun and positive learning experiences for children

Our free bilingual resources were developed in partnership with Sesame Workshop - the creators of Sesame Street® - and aim to help parents, caregivers and educators enhance learning opportunities for young children.

New Resource!

Explore tips and activities to engage with young children

 Family Activity Guide



[Growing Together: Ready for School & Beyond](#)

PNC and Sesame Workshop have partnered to create *Growing Together: Ready for School & Beyond* to provide resources that help kids, parents, and providers get ready to succeed in school.



Help kids take a school-readiness adventure in which Elmo's friends help him practice paying attention, focusing, reasoning, and memory—all skills that will help him in school. Kids will practice listening to instructions, staying focused even when there are distractions, remembering several-step directions, and more.

[Play 'Elmo's Brain Games'](#)

There are 13 videos designed for families to learn more about the importance of partnering with their child's school and how to boost their child's learning at home. Watch The Back to School video and learn how teachers and parents form a powerful learning team when they work together to lay the foundation for success in school—and in life! Getting involved in school activities encourages learning inside and outside the classroom. Because everyone on the team has the same goal: to provide safe spaces—with lots of love and care—where children can grow and thrive.



[Back to School Video](#)



4 things providers can do with these resources:

1. Introduce the available resources to teachers and staff to try before they share the resources with families.
2. Use these resources in parent meetings and newsletters or provide links to them on their websites to emphasize the importance of a family's role in the healthy development and learning of their children.
3. Emphasize positive communication with families while encouraging them to use some of the activities and resources such as the [Ready Freddy Calendar](#) to support their children's learning at home.
4. Provide professional development to teachers and staff on ways to encourage families to use the resources with bilingual children and children with different abilities.

4 things families can do with these resources:

1. Use the resources to find activities they will enjoy doing at home to support and extend what their child is learning at school or in a child care program.
2. Use the Office of Early Learning's (OEL's) [Back to School](#) webpage to support their children's development of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school.
3. Find a variety of tools, activities, websites and videos on OEL's website to help their children learn the [Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards](#).
4. Locate information, tools, and resources to support the healthy development of their children with different abilities.

“Education is not preparation for life. Education is life itself.”

John Dewey