

We're the school readiness specialists.



The SPARK program helps parents and children get ready for school together.

- **We focus on parents.** SPARK equips parents with the strategies, supplies, and resources they need to help their children be ready for school. Participation is voluntary and free for families.
- **We address a child's challenges early.** When a child has challenges that might prevent school readiness, SPARK's multidisciplinary team of experts address them long before school begins.
- **We get results.** An independent evaluation team analyzes program outcomes. Year after year, SPARK children significantly outscore their non-participating peers on Ohio's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. After kindergarten, they significantly outscore their peers on the third and fifth grade state tests in math and language arts, and have significantly fewer unexcused absence hours. The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs has designated SPARK as a Promising Practice that's effective and grounded in practice-based evidence.

The SPARK Recipe for Readiness

Engaged Parents

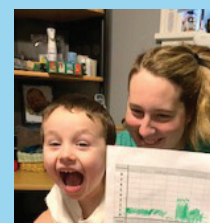
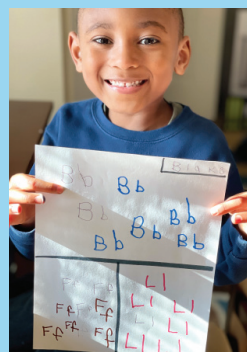
Books, Activity Kits, & Supplies

Caring, Skilled Home Visitors

Individualized Learning Plans

Early Access to Interventions

Help With Meeting Family Needs



Partner with us!

We can show you how to bring school readiness programming to your community. Learn more at sparkohio.org or call (877) 691-8521.

SPARK is a program of the Early Childhood Resource Center.



What you should know about School Readiness



EARLY CHILDHOOD
RESOURCE CENTER



Just the Facts ★ Kindergarten Success

School readiness is a game changer! Researchers agree: when a child starts kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed, outcomes are much more positive. **Here are just some of the research-backed conclusions about the effects of school readiness on children's success:**

- When a child enters kindergarten ready for school, there's an 82% chance that the child will master basic skills by age 11, compared with a 45% chance if the child isn't ready for school.²
- Family engagement is linked to children's success in kindergarten and beyond.³
- Children with parents who are engaged in their learning are more likely to have higher grades, attend school regularly, have better social skills, and graduate.⁴
- Up to 70 percent of kindergarteners who struggle with reading will still be poor readers at the end of third grade.⁵
- When families have more books at home, kindergartners start school with higher reading scores.⁶
- Many children enter kindergarten with readiness challenges that might have been diminished or eliminated with early identification and attention to child and family needs. Early intervention increases readiness.⁷
- Children whose learning difficulties are addressed early are more likely to graduate from high school, hold jobs, and live independently.⁸
- Programs that engage parents and promote home learning activities enhance readiness in ways that foster thinking skills, motivation, self-regulation, and social competence.⁹



1. From “School Readiness” to “Family Support” bit.ly/3xb43gP

2. Achieving Kindergarten Readiness for All Our Children bit.ly/2U0eEND

3. Family Engagement and School Readiness bit.ly/3pMaynV

4. A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community bit.ly/3xdcvww

5. Has Ohio's Third-Grade Reading Guarantee Led to Reading Improvements? bit.ly/3IHtG53

6. More Books at Home Linked to Higher Reading Scores bit.ly/3gomhVp

7. School Readiness bit.ly/3iwhI9x

8. Early Detection of Learning Difficulties bit.ly/3pDfA6f

9. Parent Engagement Practices Improve Outcomes for Preschool Children bit.ly/3zj9yMk

The conclusion is clear: if you want to make a powerful long-term investment in children and families (and entire communities), focus on school readiness—and positive outcomes will follow.