

ECHO Script – “Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten”

Final 8.28.08

-1-(Video of kindergarten-age children getting off bus at a school- B-Roll

MDE K12 TV)

The first day of school is a special time in a child’s life. Many parents wonder what kindergarten will be like for their child. They have questions about what their child may learn and how to best help them be ready. While children have been learning from their parents since they were born, there are some things that parents need to know and activities parents can do to help their child get ready for kindergarten.

[75]

-2- (Video of five year old children playing in a school setting- B-Roll

MDE - Bloomington)

In Minnesota, the first year of formal education is called kindergarten. There are three things that are required for children to start school. First children must be old enough. Minnesota law requires children to be five-years-old by September 1st.

[39]

-3- (Video of preschool age children receiving Early Childhood Screening- B-Roll

MDE - Early Childhood Screening (ECHO)

Second, parents must give the school a record from their doctor or clinic that shows their child has received all required immunizations or shots. This is called an immunization record. Immunizations are vaccines that help prevent disease. Third, children must have an Early Childhood Screening. Early Childhood Screening is a quick check of how children are growing and learning, and how well they can see and hear. The Early Childhood Screening is provided by school districts, Head Start programs, and Child and Teen Checkup programs usually when children are between three to four-years-old. Parents can call the school near their home to find out more about the Early Childhood Screening program, and how to sign-up their child for an appointment.

[120]

-4-(Shots or video of children receiving health exam by a doctor or nurse in a clinic- B-roll

MDE—"For the Health of the Children" (from Early Childhood Screening production)

Along with what is required to start school, parents can do many other things to help children get ready. Children learn best when they are healthy. So it's very important that children receive enough sleep every night. Children also need nutritious food every day, such as milk, fruit and vegetables. Also, regular checkups by the doctor and dentist help to make sure children are healthy.

[65]

-5-(Video of children interacting with teacher and other kindergarten students- B-Roll

MDE - Bloomington)

Each September, Minnesota's kindergarten school teachers welcome children to their classroom. Children will learn important reading, math, science, art, music, and other thinking skills in kindergarten. A licensed teacher will use interesting toys, blocks, games, books, and other activities to help children learn language, and sounds and letters for reading. Children will also learn about numbers, counting and sorting objects, science, and will sometimes use computers. Children will also learn social skills including how to cooperate with their friends, and to behave in school by listening to their teachers.

[89]

-6-(Video of parents and children reading together and interacting in home settings- B-Roll

MDE - Bloomington)

Every parent wants their child to learn as much as possible in school. Parents can do many easy and fun things at home to help their child's learning. Most kindergarten teachers want children to know their "colors" and "shapes" before they start school. Parents can help their children learn this by talking with their children about the colors and shapes of different things around the house, the neighborhood or at the store. Making up games, songs or stories or reading books about colors, shapes and counting helps to keep learning fun for children and parents!

[95]

-7-(Video of children and adults reading, talking or singing together- B-Roll

MDE - Bloomington)

Talking, singing, reading or telling stories to children every day helps children learn new words and develop thinking skills that are important for future learning. Children who are read to or hear stories every day do better when they go to kindergarten. Some parents read to their children in both their native language and in English.

[56]

-8-(Video of children dressing self, brushing teeth, or doing tasks at home- B-Roll

MDE - Bloomington)

In kindergarten, children will be expected to do some simple things by themselves. When children are about four-years-old, parents can encourage children to do things for themselves, such as putting on a jacket or sweater, brushing their teeth, and washing their hands.

[42]

-9-(Video of kindergarten-age children getting off bus at a school- B-Roll

MDE K12 TV)

Parents need to sign their child up for school before the child turns five-years-old. Parents can call the school near their home to find out more about starting kindergarten and how to sign-up for a school. Going to kindergarten is an exciting time for families—most children are very eager to go to school to learn! Parents can help children get off to a great start for learning in school and life by knowing what to expect, helping their child be healthy and by doing simple and fun learning activities with their child before school starts!

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[677]