



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW SET OF SCHOOL PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR PARENTS

This week's tips suggest ways for parents to encourage their children's success in school

First Steps today released its final set of school readiness tips. After a summer's worth of preparing for school, many parents are interested in ideas to encourage their children's success now that the academic year has begun. The following tips can also be found on the First Steps website at www.scfirststeps.org/press.htm.

Ways parents can encourage success in school

Encourage and demonstrate positive work attitudes and habits

Parents must model the attitudes and habits they desire their children to develop. It is difficult to demand that a child read when the parent never reads.

Encourage family partnership

Parents and children should each share in the success and failure of the other. Children need to know that no one is perfect. We all have successes and failures. Each family member should feel that they have the support of each other in either situation.

Recognize learning as a lifelong process

It not only enables one to get a job, but allows the independence to create a job.

Maintain contact with school personnel

You can only assist if you are informed of requirements and options.

Encourage well-roundedness

Provide opportunities for personal growth outside of schools. Colleges and high schools want to build on the knowledge and experiences that students bring to the institution.

Source: South Carolina Department of Education - <http://www.myschools.com/tracks/parents/success.htm>

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South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness ('First Steps') is a comprehensive, results-oriented statewide education initiative to help prepare children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed. Public and private support are combined through county partnerships to enable individual communities to address the unmet needs of young children and their families. First Steps' Countdown to Kindergarten is designed to leverage local resources to aid successful transitions of SC's most at-risk children into kindergarten, and to target early parent involvement and increased community awareness of the importance of school readiness. Nearly 1,300 children and their families participated in this year's Countdown program. Over 120 certified kindergarten teachers in 34 counties conducted a series of eight visits to each participating family's home to prepare the child for starting school and open the relationship with the child's family.

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