



KANSAS HOME VISITING SCHOOL READINESS

HOW DOES KANSAS HOME VISITING PREPARE CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL?

A child's home environment is much more than a starting line or background scenery: It's a launching pad for the journey of life. A million new neural connections form every second in the first years of life, according to the Harvard Center on the Developing Child. Long before school starts, infants and toddlers receive essential stimulation from their surroundings - both the place and the people.

If a baby's cognitive growth isn't nurtured at home, or development is held back by an undiagnosed medical condition, he or she will fail to keep pace with other children. Starting school at a deficit can impair a child's overall academic potential, which in turn limits career prospects and future productivity. That's why it's so important to help parents become their child's first teacher, supporting learning from the earliest stages of life.

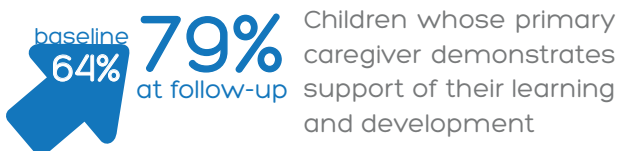
Through early screenings and other interventions, home visiting can help address problems before they become entrenched. A highly valid, reliable developmental screening tool used by home visiting programs is the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ), which can help identify developmental delays and inform parents about areas in which their child needs more help to be ready for school.

CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

Remediation during the school years is both costlier and less effective than ensuring children are ready to learn when they reach kindergarten.



PARENTAL SUPPORT



FAMILY SUCCESS STORY

A mom was distressed when a screening showed her son was significantly behind in his development. I provided information about the importance of parent-child engagement and shared activities she could use to assist her son in accomplishing age-appropriate skills. She practiced the activities while I was there to offer input. On his next assessment, her son scored significantly higher and was well on his way to reaching his development milestones.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

99% of children 30 months and older are on track with their social-emotional development (ASQ-SE). Early childhood development is both rapid and cumulative. Without a strong foundation, essential cognitive growth may be disrupted.

