

MAKING CONNECTION

We connect children, families, schools and communities.

School Readiness of Westmoreland and Fayette Counties recognizes the important role that parents have in making successful transitions for their child to kindergarten. To that end, School Readiness provides an opportunity for parents, child care providers and school district employees to collaboratively design effective transition plans for their children. The annual Transition Conference provides an opportunity for 18 school districts in Westmoreland and 6 in Fayette, local child care providers, and parents of incoming kindergarten children to work collaboratively to reach our goals of providing successful transitions to kindergarten.



ENGAGING

School Readiness provides successful parent engagement by:

- Creating and maintaining relationships connecting all of a child's teachers: providers, kindergarten teachers, and parents.
- Creating a welcoming environment for children and parents as they transition into kindergarten.
- Initiating and continuing ongoing discussions between the "givers" (providers and parents) and "receivers" (school district) in a child's educational experience.
- Proactively addressing the anxiety children and parents feel about the transition into kindergarten.
- Making communities, families, and parents aware of the importance of early childhood learning.
- Supporting parents and schools in partnering together for the benefit of children.



Contact

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SCHOOL READINESS



Promoting high quality early care and education so that all children will enter school ready to learn.



OUR GOALS

United Way of Westmoreland County School Readiness goals are:

- Enhance the quality of early childhood care and education in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties
- Help parents and the community better understand the importance of high quality early care and education
- Support successful transitions to kindergarten through the collaborative efforts of early care and education practitioners and school districts



PA One Book *Stop Snoring Bernard*, visiting author event at Franklin Regional

TRANSITION

The purpose of the School Readiness Transition Teams is to:

- meet annually to design and develop plans to create effective transitional activities for incoming kindergarten children.
- provide information, resources, and time to implement community-based early learning programs that encompass successful pre-k to kindergarten transitions.
- design curriculum and communication strategies that strengthen K-3 academic achievement.
- ensure smoother transitions into kindergarten for children and parents based on the high quality activities developed.

DID YOU

- Ninety percent of brain development occurs by the age of five.
- Every \$1 spent on high quality early education may save up to \$17 in reduced future expenditures for special education, delinquency, crime control, welfare, and local taxes.

Did you know that data shows children who participate in quality preschool settings:

- have fewer referrals for remedial or special education classes.
- are held back less often.
- maintain higher grades.
- experience higher graduation rates.
- have lower incidences of absenteeism and detentions.

