

MAKING SURE YOUR PRESCHOOLER STARTS ON A PATH TOWARDS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The preschool years are the time when young children are developing social, cognitive and language skills that will prepare them for their educational careers. During these years, children gain an enthusiasm for learning, emotional security and self-confidence, language proficiency and an ability to regulate their own behavior, setting them on a path to high school graduation.

What can I do to help my preschooler start on a path towards graduation?



- **Encourage independence** by expecting more from your child.
- **Resist doing for them when they can do for themselves.** Allow them to do simple things like dress themselves or clean up after meals.
- **Praise their efforts**, even if their bed is not made perfect or their clothing choices are not the same as yours.
- **Encourage friendships** through social, recreational and sports activities.
- **Develop predictable routines** so that your child knows what to expect each day.
- **Don't ignore misbehavior and poor conduct** at preschool. Work with the school to develop a plan to encourage positive behaviors.
- **Read to your child and with your child.** Encourage their interest in books.
- **Provide opportunities** to play games, sing songs, and engage in science, math, art and writing activities.
- **Encourage your child to experiment and discover**, within limits.
- **Establish a communication system with the preschool** so that you know what is happening on a daily basis with your child.
- **Speak in positive ways** about school, teachers and classmates.
- **Talk to your child** and find out what they are doing in school. Ask about friends and activities.
- **Attend and volunteer at school activities.** These are good ways to support your child's efforts.
- **Be aware of signs of bullying, learning disabilities, or health concerns** which might be the reason for your child's poor performance or unhappiness at school.
- **If your child has an IEP**, make sure they are included with their typical peers in all areas of the school.
- **Confirm your child with an IEP** has access to and is using the necessary accommodations to be successful.
- **Make sure your child takes medications that are prescribed, and lives a healthy lifestyle** that includes a healthy diet, plenty of exercise and sleep.

Where to go for more information:

Parent to Parent of Georgia 770-451-5484 or 800-229-2038 or www.p2pga.org

Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS)

<http://www.gelds.dec.state.ga.us/>

Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Supports

404-656-3963 or 800-311-3627 and ask to be transferred to Special Education

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/default.aspx>

Graduation Requirements

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/SBOE%20Rules/160-4-2-.48.pdf>

Additional resources: Contact the Special Education Director for your school system.

Credits:

US Department of Education http://www2.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/preschool/part_pg8.html#p8

