

## **Ready! Set! School! Fact Sheet & Quotes**

- Parents can be their children's first and best teachers.
- There are 93,000 children, ages 3-5 in the state of Utah; more than 294,000 children, ages 0-5 in Utah. More than 47,000 children in Utah will enter kindergarten next year. (2006 Utah Kids Count)
- According to a survey of kindergarten teachers, in nearly half the classrooms (46%), at least one out of five children was inadequately prepared for kindergarten when they entered school last year. In that same survey, 86% of teachers said the time they devote to dealing with disruptive behavior of poorly-prepared children, and helping them catch up, negatively affects the progress of well prepared children.
- "Scientists who study how the brain works have shown that children learn earlier-and learn more-than we once thought possible. From birth through age 5, children are developing the language, thinking, physical, emotional and social skills that they will need for the rest of their lives." (*Helping Your Preschool Child: With activities for children from infancy through age 5*, US Department of Education)
- "Research shows clearly that children are more likely to succeed in learning when their families actively support them. Families who involve their children in activities that allow the children to talk, explore, experiment and wonder show that learning is both enjoyable and important. They motivate their children to take pleasure in learning and to want to learn more. They prepare them to be successful in school-and in life." (*Helping Your Preschool Child: With activities for children from infancy through age 5*, US Department of Education)
- Research suggests that family involvement in education can boost young children's academic success (e.g., Henderson & Berla, 1994; Izzo, Weissbert, Kaspro & Fendrich, 1999; Marcon, 1999; Powell, 1989).
- Research also suggests that the transition between early childhood and elementary school can be a crucial period in children's development (Pianta, Rimm-Kauffman & Cox, 1999).
- The 2002 early childhood initiative "Good Start, Grow Smart," identified several obstacles in preparing young children for school entrance. According to the initiative, "there is not enough information for early childhood teachers, parents, grandparents, and child care providers on ways to prepare children to be successful in school."
- Pre-school education plays a key role in addressing social problems. "Studies suggest that high-quality programs for young children produce significant long-term benefits because they provide children with significant learning opportunities, involve parents as full partners with teachers in supporting their children's development, and provide teachers with systematic inservice curriculum training and supportive curriculum supervision." (*Benefits, Costs, and Explanation of the High/Scope Perry Preschool Program*, Lawrence J. Schweinhart, High/Scope Educational Research Foundation)
- Ready! Set! School! is the only research-based program using the Utah Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines available in both English and Spanish designed to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten.

**More info: [www.readyschool.org](http://www.readyschool.org)**