

MEASURE: Children Are Ready for School

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

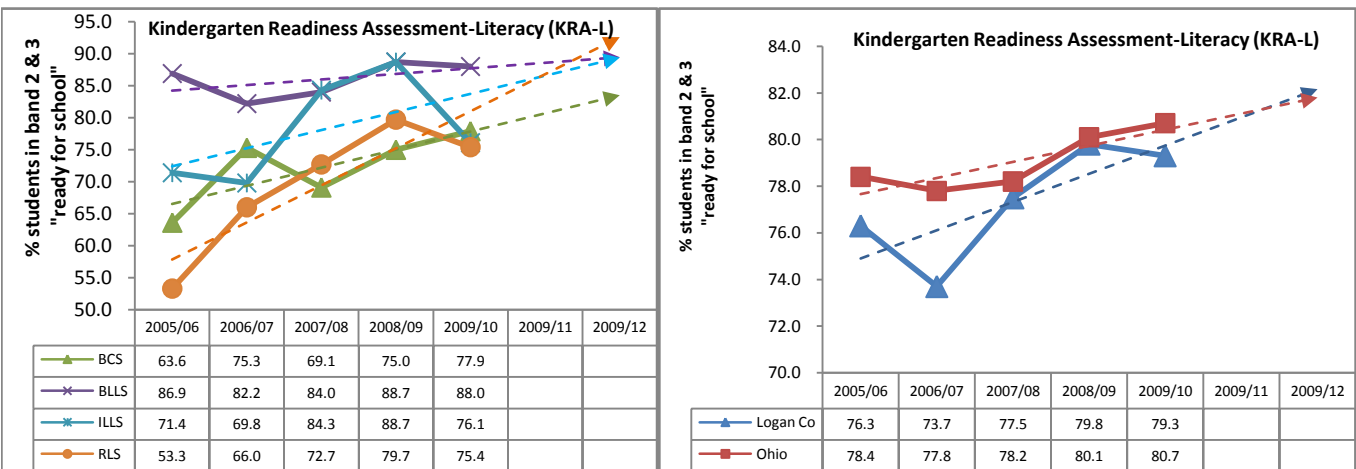
Children who are ready for school are more confident/better self esteem and transition to kindergarten easier. They tend to have a better attitude about going to school and are more likely to have later school success. Research shows a decreased likelihood of later criminal behavior when children are at grade level. Children who are ready for school tend to have more security/connection with parents, they are more likely to graduate, have better peer interaction, and fewer behavior problems.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

DEFINITION: % Children ready for school per Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Literacy (KRA-L) Data

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/11	2009/12	2009/13	2009/14	2009/15	2009/16	2009/17	2009/18
Logan Co	76.3	73.7	77.5	79.8	79.3								
Ohio	78.4	77.8	78.2	80.1	80.7								
BCS	63.6	75.3	69.1	75.0	77.9								
BLLS	86.9	82.2	84.0	88.7	88.0								
ILLS	71.4	69.8	84.3	88.7	76.1								
RLS	53.3	66.0	72.7	79.7	75.4								

Definition: Percent of kindergarteners in Band 2 & 3 of KRA-L indicating readiness for school
Data Source: Ohio Department of Education



UNDERSTANDNIG THE DATA

The KRA-L is a quick screening instrument that assesses oral language, rhyming, letter identification and alliteration - elements identified through research as being essential for reading. The purpose is to identify children for whom additional testing may be needed and to assist teachers in literacy instruction (reading & writing). It is not a substitute for sound, comprehensive assessment and observation of children and their learning. According to the KRA-L data, approximately 20% of Logan County Students are not ready for reading and writing when starting Kindergarten. This average is lower than the state average, however, forecast lines indicate a historical trend that is going in a positive direction for both Logan County and Ohio.

STORY BEHIND THE CURVE

In understanding why approximately every 1 in 5 children are not ready for school, Project Child believes there is a misconception among parents and professionals of what is school readiness. There appears to be a lack of enriched family environment (arts, crafts, prints/books) and too much TV and gaming. There is a lack of creative play among children and more encouragement is needed by parents and adults. Family life is busier than ever with both parents working to make ends meet. Parents need to understand the developmental impact of an enriched family environment and be encouraged to play with their children after a long, hard day of work. Other factors believed to play an influence on children not being ready for school is poverty, transiency, and children not entering kindergarten at age 5, but being held back until age 6.

DATA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Entry Age in Kindergarten, KRA-L data by preschool vs. none/general data, KRA-L data by Headstart vs. general data

WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

Project Child collaborative membership includes: Help Me Grow, Head Start/Early Head Start, Board of Developmental Disabilities, Health district, Job & Family Services, children Services, Mental Health Drug & Alcohol Services, Council on Rural Services, Discovery Cetner, Little Learners Pre-School, Bellefontaine City Schools and Parent Representatives

WHAT WE ARE DOING THAT WORKS?

<i>Effort</i>	<i>Partner</i>
Early Literacy Events - RIF Grant	Kiwanis, CORS, HMG, OHPCC
Parent Education Events	Discovery Center
Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative	CORS, MHDAS Board
Birth-3 Home Visiting Services	CORS (EHS, HMG)
Pre-School Services	Discovery Center, Kids Learning Place, Head Start, Little Learners, Green Hills others
Monitoring Local Data (Krawl, Get it Got it Go, Special Ed Profiles, Outcome summaries	Project Child
Free Community Child Developmental Screenings	Project Child
Safe Beginnings Protocol	Project Child
Parenting/Kinship Programs	Children Services
Women Infant & Children (WIC)	Health District
MCHAT & Lead Screenings	Loganview
Early Intervention	Discovery Center/Board of DD
GRADS	OHPCC

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO DO BETTER?

<i>Recommendation (shared priorities)</i>	<i>Strategy</i>
Getting parents and pre-school teachers to understand what school readiness is and how to work with children to encourage their development. Encourage pre-school attendance.	1. Understand & define school readiness (parents & professionals)
	2. Increase parent knowledge on importance of interaction/play in teaching their children to help them get ready for school
	3. Increase parent knowledge of how to create an enriched home environment to promote school readiness
	4. Increase percentage of students obtaining pre-school education
	5. consistent cover letter for parents/professionals by schools