School Readiness Focus for Pre-Kinder Classrooms

- “Children are ready to succeed by being able to function competently in a school environment in the areas of early language and literacy, early math and social skills.”

- Children’s social and emotional development goes hand in hand with an intense focus on school readiness; school readiness emerges from supportive social relationships.

- Children are ready for school if they have:
  - Social/emotional development
  - Print knowledge
  - Phonological awareness
  - Language development
  - Early mathematics skills

- Learning in a supportive social context
  - Children learn on their own about 30% of their knowledge base but in interaction with others they learn 70% of their knowledge base

- Link Preschool Skills to Kindergarten Skills
  - Social Skills
    - In preschool regulation of emotions leads to control of emotions and behavior in kindergarten
    - Cooperating with directions, sharing and taking turns in preschool leads to social competence in kindergarten which includes cooperation, pre-social behavior such as making friends

- Key Early Social Domains
  - Understanding emotions; inferring basic emotions from expressions or situations, and understanding the consequences of basic emotions
  - Behavioral and emotion regulation; use of emotional gestures and verbalizations to express feelings in a social situation
  - Inhibition of socially disapproved expressions of emotions (hitting, tantrums, biting, etc)
  - Initiating and maintaining positive engagement with peers; be effective in interactions with peers by cooperating, listening, taking turns and seeking help

- Social Emotional Survey
  - Child self esteem
  - Joyful spirit
  - Cooperation with peers and teachers
Conversations with peers
- Quality of pretend play
- Ability to express feelings
- Creativity
- Behavioral self control
- Ability to make choices
- Independence
- Ability to care about the feelings of others

- Research indicates that High Responsiveness by caregivers and teachers leads to positive growth in cognitive and social skills
  - At least 20% higher skills at age 4 due to high responsiveness of adults

- Research indicates that the impact of a language rich environment in early childhood impacts later reading
  - Higher letter and word identification
  - Stronger comprehension and calculation skills

- Link Preschool Skills to Kindergarten Skills
  - Early Reading
    - Oral language skills in preschool leads to reading vocabulary and reading comprehension skills in kindergarten
    - Phonological processing and print knowledge leads to word decoding, fluency and spelling skills

- Predictors of positive reading skills in school
  - Alphabet knowledge
  - Invented spelling
  - Writing name
  - Phonological awareness; demonstrate sensitivity to, manipulation or and use of sounds in words
  - Oral language; acquire vocabulary, use language to construct relationships, figure things out, solve programs and express ideas
  - Print knowledge; demonstrate knowledge of letters, words; able to translate print to sound and sound to print (letter-to-sound); and understanding of book and print concepts

- If children leave us for kindergarten ready for school, we know we are offering quality programming!!!