How can I, as a family member, support my child’s school readiness?

- Read lots of different kinds of books and texts with your child every day. Encourage them to “read” by looking at the pictures and describing what they see.

- Support your child’s development by speaking in your native language at home.

- Share your interests and skills with your child, teach your child about your family’s culture(s), sing songs and chants, and share stories from your childhood and family’s history.

- Use new words with your child every day to help develop vocabulary. Ask your child open ended questions instead of yes/no questions to support the development of their language.

- Use clear and concise language with your child. Tell them what to do instead of what not to do and explain why that rule is important.

- Practice counting and finding numbers during different times of the day and in different settings.

- Visit your local library and find books about topics that interest your child.

- Be a part of your child’s school community by volunteering, attending events, communicating with the teacher, connecting with other parents, etc.

- Visit museums and/or zoos.

- Show your child how and why you write. Ask them to contribute by adding their own “writing” (squiggles, pictures, lines, etc.).
FAMILIES AS PARTNERS IN THE TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

This map is designed to support you and your child as you prepare for the transition into preschool & kindergarten. By establishing relationships with the school, other families, and the community throughout the year, you can help your child have a well-supported transition into school.

**Fall**
- Ask your child’s teacher or neighborhood school about school readiness goals.
- Meet with your child’s teacher, pediatrician, or a teacher at your local school to discuss academic and developmental evaluations and goals.
- On your own or with a friend or family member, observe classrooms to find a program that meets your family’s needs.

**Winter**
- Ask your neighborhood school for Choice Enrollment Forms in your native language and find out what forms you will need to bring with you.
- Begin to talk to your child about what school will be like. Listen to their hopes and their fears about this new adventure.
- Meet with your child’s teacher, pediatrician, and/or a teacher at a local school to discuss progress towards school readiness goals.

**Spring**
- Collect information about the new school. Collect contact information for the school staff, the schedule and calendar, before and after school care options, etc. If your child has an Individual Family Service Plan or Individual Education Plan, share this with the school.
- Set up a meeting with your child’s new teacher and do a classroom observation with your child.

**Summer**
- Make a list of any questions that you and your child have about the school. Reach out to the school and other families to have your questions answered.
- Invite the teacher to do a home visit to learn more about your child and your family before school starts.
- Help your child write a letter to the teacher about what he/she is looking forward to in school.