



California Department of Education • Sacramento, 2015

Current Issues in Early Childhood Education: Unit 1, Key Topic 4

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- The concept of **school readiness** has roots in Goal I of the National Education Goals, which were developed and adopted at a national education summit by the nation's governors in 1989.
- In 1994, the Goals 2000: Educate America Act became law with the addition of two more goals.

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Goal I states “By the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn.”

The first objective under this goal references high-quality preschool:

- All children will have access to high-quality and developmentally appropriate preschool programs that help prepare children for school.

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“As the NAEYC’s position statement on school readiness suggests, school readiness involves more than children being prepared for school; it involves ensuring that families, schools, and communities are ready to support children’s success in school.”

California Preschool Program Guidelines, p. 10

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“Past conceptualizations of school readiness that focused primarily on children’s specific skills in areas such as literacy and mathematics have recently been broadened to include areas such as social and emotional development and executive functioning.”

California Preschool Program Guidelines, p. 10

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School readiness has 3 components:

1. Children’s readiness for school
2. Schools’ readiness for children
3. Family and community support and services that contribute to children’s readiness for school success

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School readiness includes 5 domains:

1. Social and emotional development
2. Language and literacy development
3. Cognition and general knowledge
4. Physical well-being and motor development
5. Approaches to learning

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Read

- Pages 10–11, *California Preschool Program Guidelines*
- School Readiness: A position statement of the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- NAEYC Where We STAND Summary on School Readiness

https://www.naeyc.org/positionstatements/school_readiness

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- Develop a 10–15 minute presentation about school readiness for families of preschool children.
- What are the most important messages to share? How can you most effectively present this information?
- Be creative! Use materials and activities typically found in preschool classes to help illustrate key points.

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- What images, words, or phrases from the presentations do you remember?
- What information came through very clearly? What seemed the most important?

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- How do you think family members would respond to the presentations? Are there things that weren't evident in these presentations that would be critical to consider?
- What might you do differently in your presentation after watching your classmates' presentations?

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- Which ideas or part of this class session stood out most for you?
- What seemed familiar or reinforced what you already know or have experienced?
- What gave you a new perspective or insight that causes you to think differently about teaching preschool children and/or engaging their families?

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- Why do you think the content of this class session was presented the way it was? How did this approach help you understand the content? What else would have helped?
- What does this tell you about how you learn?

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- How will you decide what to apply from this class session in your work with preschool children and families?
- What will you do to ensure you will implement what you have decided to use?

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