

Helping Your Child Build School Success Skills

Young children are explorers and scientists as they try to figure out how the world works. Adults can help them by encouraging them as they attempt to put things together or take them apart, as they ask questions about how something works or why something happens.

The New Mexico Early Learning Outcomes include several school-success building skills. Our goal for each child is that he or she:

- Try new things or activities
- Learn to do things on his or her own
- Pretend in many ways
- Develop a longer attention span

In addition, developing responsibilities for the greater community are important school skills. The New Mexico PreK goals in this area for each child are that he or she:

- Express cultural influences from home, neighborhood and community
- Learn to care for belongings
- Play with other children
- And learn to resolve conflicts

The following activities can help support your child's development of the skills that will help toward school success:

Family Chores

Give your child opportunities to help with family chores:

- A two year old can put a few toys in a basket or on a low shelf.
- A three year old can match socks from the laundry basket.
- A four year old can set the table with silverware, napkins and plastic cups at each place.
- A five year old can help empty wastebaskets from around the house.

Invite your child to suggest other chores in which he or she could lend a hand (washing and drying plastic dishes, helping with simple cooking activities, washing the car, sweeping the floor, getting the mail, watering the plants).

