

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives

When you support Extension, young children develop skills needed for academic success and career readiness.



*The **Carter County** Extension early childhood programs concentrates on all five areas of school readiness. Language, math, and general knowledge include listening to stories, identifying shapes and colors, counting and asking questions.*

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Extension Contributes to School Readiness

Family and Consumer Sciences agents conduct early childhood and parenting programs, and train childcare providers to prepare children for success in school.



extension.ca.uky.edu

Only 51% of Kentucky children under the age of five are ready to engage in and benefit from early childhood experiences that best promote the child's success. Poverty is a major factor with nearly 64% of children entering kindergarten qualify for free- or reduced-priced meals.

*Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS)
Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC)*

School readiness is an indicator for later academic success including attainment of higher levels of education and securing employment. School readiness is multi-dimensional including physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language development including early literacy, and cognitive or general knowledge.

In 2012, **Carter County** Extension began a monthly program for children under the age of five and their parent or grandparent. At that time, less than 40% of **Carter County** children were kindergarten ready. Using the University of Kentucky (UK) *Literacy, Eating and Activity for Preschoolers (LEAP)* curriculum and other resources, over 120 children have participated in science, math, art, music, and physical activity stations. Kindergarten Readiness increased by 15% over five years to 54.5% (state average 51%).

Parents who participate in a similar program in **Hardin County**, report replicating many of the Extension activities at home. The Family and Consumer Science agent incorporates the UK Keys to Great Parenting curriculum promoting the importance of parents as their child's teacher. Parents increase knowledge of developmental growth, nurturing techniques, teaching through play and reading, positive discipline and safety.

Extension collaborates with local and school libraries and Family Resource Centers to conduct programs such as *Families Reading Every Day*. **Bell County** conducts a program in which parents read to their child at least 20 minutes every day. Over 75% of Bell County children scored average or above average in language development



Learning stations allow children to develop small motor skills and different approaches to learning.

(state average 71.6%).

Family and Consumer Sciences agents serve on local and regional Early Childhood Councils. Agents, Extension staff, and trained volunteers conduct programs at Head Start and early childcare centers, coordinate community activities, and provide continuing education opportunities for day care provider certification. During 2016, the **Simpson County** agent facilitated 6 hours of training for 55 childcare providers and day care directors. Facility directors report that techniques learned are "implemented daily and have made an incredible difference in the learning environment."