# Tools for Reimagining School Readiness - Guide

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/tools-for-reimagining-school-readiness.html>

Libraries play a vital role in preparing young children for school by providing interactive and playful programs in which children can develop social, emotional, math, science, and executive function skills and practices. Research has shown these skills to be important for later academic and lifelong success. The [Reimagining School Readiness Toolkit](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/resources/educator-resources/library-toolkit) provides free, online, research-based resources, created specifically for library staff. These resources make it easy for you to enhance what you are already doing, with eye-catching tips, planning tools, program surveys, activity ideas, family conversation starters, social media posts, and more. This webinar introduces library staff to the background and components of the Toolkit, along with testimonials from practitioners about how they are reimagining school readiness in their own libraries. You’ll leave with ideas and strategies for supporting your families and communities.

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Six Key Findings** |
| The Reimagining School Readiness [research overview](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Overview.pdf) (pdf) or [position paper](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/School_Readiness_Position_Paper_WORKING_v2.pdf) (pdf) outline six key findings,identifying the skills and conditions that matter most for a child’s success in school and life. Consider the specifics of each of these findings, reflect on the ways you already are addressing them in your programs and services, and identify enhancement opportunities to explore. |
| 1. **Quality adult-child interactions** shape children’s thinking skills. The conversations we have, the questions we ask, and the experiences we provide matter. (Talk & Play)
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| 1. Children with **stronger social skills** do better in school, in the workplace, and in life. (Talk & Play)
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| 1. **Science learning is critical** for the development of higher-order thinking but is missing from most early school experiences. (Science & Math)
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| 1. Demonstrating **strong math skills** at an early age predicts long-term success in school, not just in later math learning but also in later reading proficiency. (Science & Math)
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| 1. Planning, self-awareness, and self-control—what psychologists refer to as **“executive functions”**—predict positive school and life outcomes. (Body & Brain)
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| 1. Higher-order thinking, retention of information, and creativity flourish when children **experience minimized stress** and when their **basic needs are met**. (Body & Brain)
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| **Tips by Age Ranges** |
| The [Promising Practices Booklet](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Promising-Practices-Booklet-2021_FINAL.pdf) (pdf) includes, in addition to general strategies for library staff, tips divided by age group. Review these groupings and list ways you would like to focus on supporting their specific developmental needs. Note: Age groupings are approximate, so you may find activities are applicable across multiple age groups.**Babies 0-18 months****Toddlers 18 months-3 years****Preschoolers 3-5 years****Early Elementary 5-8 years**1.
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| **Ready-to-use Resources in Six Languages** |
| The Toolkit includes a multitude of ready-to-use resources (available in English, Chinese, Farsi, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese) to share with families and caregivers including **bookmarks, “Time to Try” Math Activities, other flyers and posters, and social media copy and images**. Brainstorm some moments in your programs and services when you could share each of these resources. When and where would you share them, and what would you say? |
| **Hands-on Activities** |
| Explore the [Activities Database](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/school-community-programs/educator-resources/activities) and select three possible activities to use in your next program and/or service with children ages 0-8 and their families. |

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| **Action Plan**  |

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| Be sure to utilize all the planning resources in the [Promising Practices Booklet](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Promising-Practices-Booklet-2021_FINAL.pdf) (pdf), including the [Program Planning Sheet](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Self-Reflection-Form_A_v2.pdf) (pdf), and for follow up, the [Program Reflection Sheet](https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Self-Reflection-Form_B_v2.pdf) (pdf) to consider changes for next time. |