



Collaborative Family Engagement



What is Getting Ready?

Getting Ready is an **evidence-based family engagement approach** that increases school readiness among **children ages 5 and younger** who participate in home visitation or center-based early childhood programs. The Getting Ready Approach focuses specifically on supporting children's learning and development through **collaborative parent partnerships**.

Developed at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Getting Ready focuses on **building, strengthening and sustaining relationships**. Getting Ready is infused into existing programs; it is not a curriculum or packaged, stand-alone program. It seamlessly aligns with programmatic requirements, providing a **consistent, strength-based experience for all children, families and educators**.

Getting Ready Approach

The Getting Ready Approach consists of eight strategies used by early childhood educators to **enhance their partnerships with parents**, along with a collaborative family contact structure that offers guidance on how to conduct meetings with families, such as home visits or conferences. When embedded within early childhood programs, the Getting Ready Approach:



Facilitates children's learning and development



Supports dynamic parent-child relationships



Promotes strong educator-parent partnerships

Evidence of Impact

Through **rigorous research trials beginning in 2004***, the model has built strong evidence of its effectiveness. Participants in the treatment group experienced improvements in skills and relationships when compared to counterparts who did not participate.

* Research publications available upon request.



Children demonstrated improved:

social-emotional competencies; self-regulation; language and early literacy skills



Educators and parents demonstrated enhanced:

ability to work constructively together to strengthen children's learning and build positive parent-child relationships



Parents demonstrated more:

warmth and sensitivity; skills to support children's autonomy and learning; appropriate guidance and directives



Professional Development

Professional development is key to Getting Ready's success in **promoting family engagement and partnership** in support of children's learning and development. Initial training and ongoing, live, interactive coaching builds program capacity and supports educators in blending Getting Ready elements into family interactions.

Virtual Training Structure

Initial Training

Initial training provides information on **effective parent-child** and **parent-educator interactions**. During the training, educators learn:

- 1 **How to use the 8 Getting Ready strategies to**
 - Build partnerships with parents.
 - Support parent competencies.
- 2 **How to conduct formal meetings using the collaborative family contact structure.**

Ongoing Coaching

Coaching supports educators in using the Getting Ready Approach. Sessions are **strength-based, reflective, interactive** and **action-oriented**. During the sessions, educators:

- 1 **Video record a formal family contact, which may include a conference or home-visit.**
- 2 **Submit the video for coach review.**
- 3 **Participate in a virtual coaching conversation.**

Professional Perspectives on Getting Ready



I feel like my conversations with the parent just flow better. We get more information from each other. – Classroom Educator

I learned how to not just to use my information but also take the parents information and collaborate together to set goals. – Preschool Educator

We set the standard that we're partners in this. I'm not just a teacher and you're not just a parent, we're together. – Classroom Educator

I am more confident in myself and my skills. My coach made it easy for me to be more comfortable in my visits. – Home Visitor



More Information

Interested in learning more about the Getting Ready Approach and potentially including it in your school, agency or program?



Visit: gettingready.unl.edu/participate

