

Your Local Library



Stark County libraries offer a wealth of free resources for Stark County families, including preschool story times, hands-on workshops for all ages, and early learning backpacks that you can check out to use with your child at home.

At the library, you can surf the internet, play with educational toys, and check out educational books, CDs, DVDs, and puppets.

Check out what's happening by visiting a library branch near you.

You!

You can start your child out on the best possible path by helping him love to learn.

Everyday outings are chock-full of learning moments: Count the trees in the park, find all the blue cars in the parking lot, or search the grocery store for the letter "R."

Read together every day. Your child will love to snuggle and read with you, at bedtime or at any time of the day.



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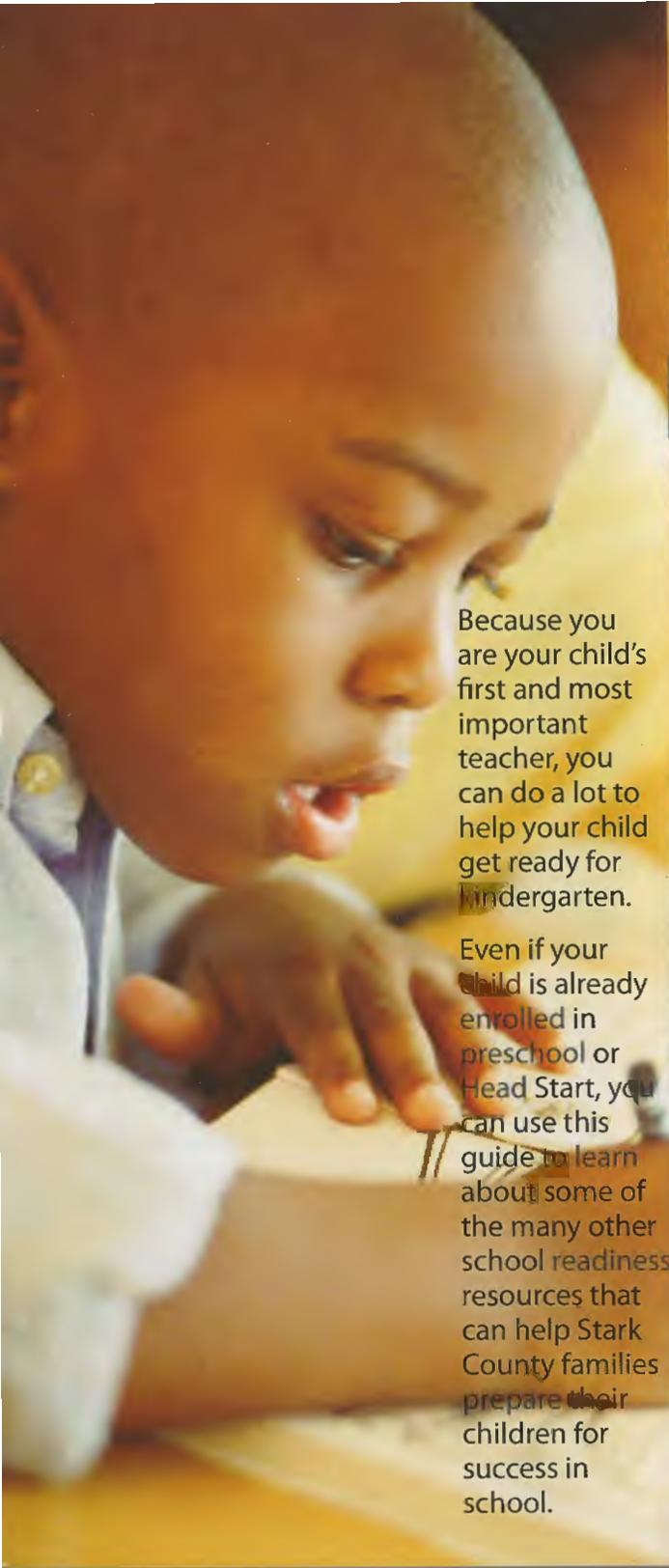
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Early Childhood Resources in Stark County



Local help for families who are preparing for school success



Because you are your child's first and most important teacher, you can do a lot to help your child get ready for kindergarten.

Even if your child is already enrolled in preschool or Head Start, you can use this guide to learn about some of the many other school readiness resources that can help Stark County families prepare their children for success in school.

The Early Childhood Resource Center



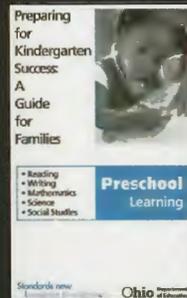
The Early Childhood Resource Center is *the* destination for fun hands-on workshops, parenting classes, and so much more.

The Center's Inspiration Station offers programs for families that

focus on storytelling, drumming, fitness, occupations, the environment, safety, and many other topics. You can even sign up for a Stark County District Library card right at the Center and check out children's books, storytelling kits, videos, and CDs.

For more information, visit www.ecresourcecenter.org, call (330) 491-3272, or stop by the Center at 1718 Cleveland Avenue NW, Canton, Ohio 44703.

Preparing for Kindergarten Success



The Ohio Department of Education's publication entitled *Preparing for Kindergarten Success: A Guide for Families* will help you understand what the school expects from incoming kindergarteners and suggests ways you can work with your child to prepare.

The guide provides examples of the experiences your child should have before entering kindergarten, and suggests many enjoyable activities for building these experiences into your normal family routine.

For more information about getting ready for kindergarten, visit the Ohio Department of Education's website at www.education.ohio.gov and search for *family guides to standards*.

Early Experiences Last a Lifetime

The *Early Experiences* website, www.earlyexperiences.org, is your community's early childhood website. It's there to guide Stark County parents and caregivers through the challenges of raising a young child.

Visitors can learn about developmental milestones, fun activities for families, and how to find a high-quality child care provider.

The handy *Early Experiences* directory lists community resources that provide job training, food assistance, and health services, among other things.

Early Experiences has quickly become *the* go-to resource for Stark County parents: where else can you find instructions for making your own play dough at home *and* learn how to make doctor visits less scary?



School-Based Programming

Stark County SPARK schools offer programming that is open to both SPARK and non-SPARK incoming kindergarteners.

The *Let's Talk* program helps parents learn how to support their children's early reading skills. Parents use a variety of hands-on activity kits at home with their children. The facilitator shows the parents how to use the items in the kits and suggests additional activities to improve early reading skills at home.

The *Get Ready for School* program, held each year just before school is in session, introduces incoming kindergarteners to the kindergarten experience. From meeting the principal to reciting the pledge of allegiance, the children get a feel for the routines of the school day, which helps to minimize first-day jitters.

