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Designed by J. Cecil Anderson

Getting the Brain Ready for Early Learning • ISBN 978-0-578-55615-4

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This book is to be used at the sole discretion and judgment of parents, caretakers and teachers. Though not exhaustive, the content supports practices, processes and procedures of early childhood development.

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Greetings,

We are greatly honored that you have chosen *Getting the Brain Ready for Early Learning*. As parents, caretakers and teachers you play a vital role in the early development of children. Their relationships with you will greatly impact their lives.

We believe children should enjoy a childhood that's fun and filled with wonderful experiences centered around learning new, exciting things. This resource book has been created to do just that. We hope *Getting the Brain Ready for Early Learning* proves to be most beneficial as you endeavor to help children, do their very best.

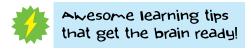
We applaud you and wish you continued success!

Sincerely, Lorraine & J. Cecil

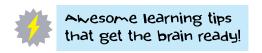
The brain is the command center of our bodies, and at birth, we have almost all the brain cells we will need for the rest of our lives. The connections between these cells give us the ability to function and form a network that helps our brains grow.

The tips in this book serve to spark new connections via new experiences. You may use these tips in any order, so you choose when you'd like to try them. As retention improves with practice, we recommend revisiting tips at least three times for best results. Feel free to adjust them to fit your specific needs because it's all about learning, exploring and having fun doing it!

For your convenience, each tip has a spark icon next to it.



Some tips have gray spark icons next to them. You will find more information on these in the box marked "Try This!" at the bottom of the same page.









How do children learn how to talk, walk or express themselves? You guessed it—by watching you. That's right. YOU! Children observe, embrace and mimic the behavior of those around them. We can relate children to sponges that soak up everything that is seen and heard. This is a natural part of the early learning process and the beginning of their education. The actions they see; the relationships they observe; and the words they hear are sure to be carried into their schools. Here are some tips that can help get children off to a great start!



to someone and explain why you did it. This is a way to show them how to be kind and concerned about others.



Make sure they see you reading and writing every day. Ask them to help you make out the grocery list! Children may be encouraged then to read and write.



Refrain from using inappropriate language around children. This language is sure to find its way into the classroom. Explain how offensive words could make others feel sad, or even mad.



Take a few minutes to have the child pretend to be the parent, and you be the child. Observe how he or she mimics you.

An opportunity to assist grandparents is a great way for children to practice being kind and helpful. Child and grandparent could take out trash, feed pets or check the mail together!



when making your plans for the weekend, have children make plans as well. Planning shows how to make use of available time, which can benefit children greatly in the future.



when you have a challenging task, let children see you work it through, and not give up. Vocalize your progress, setbacks and solutions. This demonstrates self-motivation, persistence and dedication for them.



Make sure children see you taking care of yourself. Performing daily routines like grooming, brushing teeth and exercising encourages them to do the same. Remember, healthy is happy!



Show children how to care for the environment. Teach them to recycle items, reuse items and reduce usage of resources such as water and electricity. This will serve us all well in the future!



reach children how to care for their belongings (ex: toys, books, clothes, shoes, etc.) This can help them appreciate what they have, and to respect the belongings of others.



Talk with children concerning events happening in the United States and worldwide. Choose topics like humanitarian news, entertainment, technology, etc. Global awareness is important!



Get involved in the community. Participate in activities such as food drives, park clean-ups and festivals. Children may enjoy feeling like they're a part of something great ... and they are!



Smile, laugh and enjoy yourself around children! Share what brings you joy! This can help them identify what makes them happy.



Learning should be centered around new and exciting experiences that spark a desire for children to want more. This book promotes such experiences! With a focus on communication, collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving, Getting the Brain Ready for Early Learning presents a fun and creative approach to learning.

"From Power to Greatness in Excellence! This book will transform your life. You will find excellent tips that enhance sensory skills, character education, fine and gross motor skills, etc. With that in mind, this book has the power to bring assorted educational tasks and options to early learners. The authors are amazing in their use of so many educated, integrated opportunities and in focusing on early learning experiences. I highly recommend this book! It will motivate and allow you to celebrate academic excellence."

- Jim G., Early Childhood and Care Department, College Instructor

"Research has shown that early interventions and strategies can make a significant difference in a child's ability to learn new skills. Getting the Brain Ready for Early Learning is an excellent resource for parents and professionals in education and provides easy-to-do, effective tips that can be used at home and in the classroom setting."

- Meagan N., Ph.D., Nationally Certified School Psychologist

"I believe Getting the Brain Ready for Early Learning has practical tips that can be easily implemented by parents. I love that it provides vivid examples of how to introduce, teach and practice critical thinking skills."

- Tonya V., Ed.S., Special Education Teacher



The Habari Books Series has been created to offer valuable information that prepares early learners for rich, rewarding educational experiences. The content is developmentally appropriate and academically challenging. Habari Books encourage parent/child, caretaker/child and teacher/child collaboration. Our goal is to offer practical techniques that help children learn and develop an early love for learning.

