

Grand H.E.L.P.

Health, Education, Legal, and Parenting Information for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Colorado State University

Extension

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Be Ready! Campaign Launching in Northern Colorado

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What does it really mean for a child to be truly ready to enter school? Perhaps an enthusiastic 5-year-old heading off to his first day of Kindergarten comes to mind, or a little girl who can perfectly recite her ABC's. In reality, school-readiness begins long before these things. The process of preparing your grandchild for school success begins at birth!

More than 25 community partners in Northern Colorado are uniting to raising awareness around what it truly means to be ready for school, including Poudre School District, Thompson School District, Estes Park School District, Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, Colorado State University, United Way of Larimer County, and many childcare providers, nonprofit groups and other service providers.

Ready is: **R**ead, **E**xplore, **A**sk, **D**iscover, **P**la**Y**.

On the website, www.BeReadyLarimerCounty.org, grandparents can gain knowledge about what it means to be ready for school, as well as locate useful activities to do

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Upcoming Monthly Topics on the Resource Website

September

National Preparedness Month: Learn tips to help your grandchild prepare for school

October

National Work and Family Month: Tips to keep a balance between work and family

November

National Hunger Awareness Month: Learn how to plan a thanksgiving meal on a budget

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Visit the GRG resources website to read stories of other grandparents raising grandchildren in Colorado. Click on *Grandparent Stories*
www.ext.colostate.edu/grg

Be Ready Parent Fair Saturday October 5th, 10am-4pm Mathews House Community Life Center

with grandchildren. The Be Ready initiative is not only for grandparents and grandchildren in Northern Colorado. All grandparents regardless of location can benefit from information on this website.

We encourage everyone to be a part of this movement. Whether you are a parent yourself, have neighbors with young children, or represent a business that cares about the future of our youth, there is a way for you to get involved.

In addition, we invite you to attend the Be Ready Parent Fair on Saturday, October 5th, from 10am-4pm at the Mathews House Community Life Center 220 North Grant Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521. This is a free, fun community event that will feature workshops, activities to do with your grandchildren, and dozens of informational booths to provide education about the wealth of resources available to people raising children in Larimer County, Colorado.

For more information on the Be Ready Campaign, please visit the Be Ready website, or contact Erin Zimmermann at ezimmermann@uwaylc.org. Thank you for making a difference by helping grandchildren to be successful and school-ready!



Grand H.E.L.P. is a supplementary newsletter to the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Website. Each season features articles on important topics for grandparents:

- Summer: **H**Health
- Fall: **E**ducation
- Winter: **L**egal
- Spring: **P**arenting

Call (970) 491-6281 to find a Colorado State University Extension office near you!

Book Corner



The Night Before Kindergarten by Natasha Wing helps young grandchildren get ready for the transition from preschool to kindergarten. Following the classic *The Night Before Christmas*, this book describes children as they prepare for their first day of school. Natasha Wing describes how getting ready to kindergarten might be a little scary, but how much fun it can really be. Try reading this book with your grandchildren as they prepare for their first day of school!

Sometimes children aren't the only ones going through transitions. ***To Grandma's House, We—Stay: When You Have to Stop Spoiling Your Grandchildren and Start Raising Them*** helps grandparents transition to full-time caregivers. Sally Houtman provides guidance and support to grandparents as they journey through the sometimes difficult task of raising their grandchildren.

