

# Ready to Succeed

An Early Literacy and School Readiness Newsletter for Professionals

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## What We Know About School Readiness

In recent years, the issue of school readiness has been somewhat controversial. This has caused misinformation and confusion for parents, educators, administrators, and others making decisions about children's ability to be successful in a school setting. For many, the issue is that there should be a predetermined set of capabilities that all children should have before entering kindergarten. However, others feel that all children are ready and it is the role of the school and the teacher to provide developmentally appropriate activities to meet each child's individual needs.

In the past, discussions about school readiness generally were focused on readiness to read or to perform other cognitive skills. Today, the prevailing view is

that readiness reflects a range of skills and abilities, including health and physical development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language and communicative skills,

**"In recent years, the issue of school readiness has been somewhat controversial."**

and cognitive and general knowledge (National Educational Goals Panel, 1998; California Department of Education, 1997).

Concern over school readiness has led the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to issue a position statement. The association emphasizes that any discussion of school readiness should consider at least three critical factors:

- The diversity of children's early life experiences as well as inequity in experiences.
- The wide variation in young children's development and learning.
- The degree to which school expectations of children entering kindergarten are reasonable, appropriate, and supportive of individual differences (IRA and NAEYC, 1998).

The NAEYC contends that all children, except those with the most severe cases of abuse, neglect, or disability, enter school ready to learn the content provided by the school. Many traditional definitions of school readiness place undue burden of proof on the child. They also fail to recognize the normal



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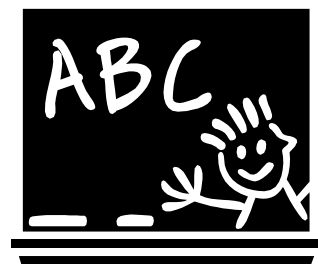
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# Firecracker Sandwiches

Mary Ann F. Kohl and Jean Potter

Try this nutritious recipe for your 4th of July celebration!

## INGREDIENTS:

1 13 ounce can chunk light tuna  
packed in water, drained  
1/3 cup low fat mayonnaise  
1 medium-size carrot, peeled and grated  
1/4 cup raisins  
8 slices firm white bread with crusts  
removed  
Lemonade, optional

## UTENSILS:

mixing bowl and spoon  
rolling pin

colored plastic wrap  
patriotic ribbon or twist-ties

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Place the tuna and mayonnaise in the bowl and mix well with the spoon.
2. Add the grated carrot to the tuna mixture and mix again.
3. Stir the raisins into tuna mixture. Set aside.
4. Place one slice of the bread on work surface and flatten it with a rolling pin into a thin, flat piece.
5. Spread 1/4 cup or less tuna mixture evenly on the flattened slice of bread.

6. Roll up the bread with tuna mixture jelly-roll fashion. Set aside on work surface.
7. Continue flattening and filling more bread with the tuna mixture and rolling into jelly rolls. Set all sandwiches aside as they are completed.
8. Wrap each rolled sandwich in colored plastic wrap, twisting ends with patriotic ribbon or twist-ties to resemble fire crackers.
9. Put the fire cracker sandwiches on a plate or stack them in a basket to serve for a party appetizer or lunch.
10. Serve with ice cold lemonade!

## Book List: Celebrating America



*Hats Off for the Fourth of July*  
Harriet Ziefert, et al  
*America the Beautiful*  
Katherine Lee Bates  
*Apple Pie Fourth of July*  
Janet D. Wong  
*A Flag for All*  
Larry Dane Brimmer  
*Huff and Puff's Fourth of July*  
Wendy Watson  
*Flag Day (Holiday Celebrations)*  
Jason Cooper

*Hurray for the 4th of July*  
Wendy Watson  
*Uncle Chente's Picnic / El Picnic de Tio Chente*  
Diane Gonzales Bertrand  
*America: A Patriotic Primer*  
Lynne V. Cheney  
*God Bless America*  
Irving Berlin  
*Where and Why the American Flag Flies*  
*24 Hours a Day*  
Bedford O. Kaddy

*A is for America*  
Devin Scillian  
*The Fourth of July*  
Alice Dalglish  
*The Scrambled States of America*  
Laurie Keller  
*One Nation: America by the Numbers*  
Devin Scillian  
*Good Golly Miss Molly and the 4th of July Parade*  
Eloise Ensor  
*Flag Day (Our American Holidays)*  
Robert Haven Schaffler

## School Readiness continued

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variations in children's rate and nature of individual development and learning.

Another misconception around this issue is that children's learning occurs in a rigid sequence and that certain skills must exist before more learning can take place. Research now shows that children, in fact,

learn from the whole to the part. Children's learning can be viewed as a developmental continuum rather than as an all or nothing phenomenon (IRA and NAEYC, 1998).

### Works Cited:

California Department of Education, 1997. *Continuity for Young Children: Positive Transitions to Elementary School.*

Sacramento: California Department of Education.

International Reading Association and National Association for the Education of Young Children. 1998. *Learning to Read and Write.* IRA and NAEYC.

National Educational Goals Panel. 1998. *Ready Schools.* A Report of the Goal 1 Ready Schools Resource Group. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

## Book List: Off to Kindergarten!

*Riding the School Bus with Mrs. Kramer*  
by Alice K. Flanagan

*School Days*  
by B.G. Hennessy

*Kindergarten Kids*  
by Ellen B. Senisi

*Franklin Goes to School*  
by Paulette Bourgeois

*Welcome to Kindergarten*  
by Anne Rockwell

*When Dinosaurs Go to School*  
by Linda Martin

*This is the Way We Go to School*  
by Edith Baer

*Franklin's First Day at School*  
by Paulette Bourgeois

*Friends at School*  
by Rochelle Bunnett

*Froggy Goes to School*  
by Jonathan London

*School Bus*  
by Donald Crew

*Will I Have a Friend?*  
by Miriam Cohen

*Tom Goes to Kindergarten*  
by Margaret Wild

*Look Out Kindergarten Here I Come*  
by Nancy Carlson

*Timothy Goes to School*  
by Rosemary Wells

*Miss Bindergarten Goes to Kindergarten*  
by Joseph Slate

*When You Go to Kindergarten*  
by James Howe

*The Night Before Kindergarten*  
by Natasha Wing

*Tiptoe Into Kindergarten*  
by Jacqueline Rogers

*First Day, Hooray!*  
by Nancy Poydar

*First Day Jitters*  
by Julie Danneberg

## Read Me a Story! Sing Me a Song!



Thank you to Placer County Office of Education, Child Care Services for including our program in their annual "Read Me a Story! Sing Me a Song!" event.

The children had a wonderful time creating a fish scale to display on our Rainbow Fish and putting together our alphabet and number puzzles. All children received a Rainbow Fish coloring page to complete at home. Serving goldfish crackers for a snack

was also a big hit!

With our participation, we were able to illustrate the importance of the art and literacy connection while having a fun time!

The Ready to Succeed Program was able to disseminate informational brochures to families and providers regarding "Reading to Infants," "Tips for Reading to Toddlers," "Reading With Your Child," and "Wordless Books." If you are interested in

obtaining these no-cost brochures for the parents in your program, be sure to let us know.

Thanks again to PCOE Child Care Services! We look forward to next year.



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Since 1917**



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## Ready to Succeed Workshops Can Come to You

The workshops available in the Ready to Succeed Program can be scheduled and implemented to meet your needs! The following is a list of our current workshop series:

- "Let's Read Together" Workshops
  - The Very Hungry Caterpillar*
  - Rosie's Walk*
  - Frog On His Own*
  - Red Riding Hood*
- "Off to a Good Start" Workshops
  - Kindergarten Expectations
  - Language and Learning

Getting Ready to Read  
Social and Emotional Preparation  
Problem-Solving and Inquiry  
Health and Well-Being  
Home to School Connection

Contact us today to find out more about our program and how we can benefit your parents and/or your staff. Be sure to visit our website: <http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu>.

As always, we welcome any feedback you have to offer about this newsletter and our program.

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**Sharon K. Junge**  
County Director

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**Paula R. Anderson**  
Program Representative