

Signature Program Action Plan

Team	Human Development and Family Science
Program Title	Gearing Up for Kindergarten
Program Coordinator(s)	Sean Brotherson (Family Science Specialist), Deb Theurer (Parent Resource coordinator), and Divya Saxena (Extension Associate)
Situation	The academic expectations of children entering kindergarten have changed a great deal from previous generations. In order to instill knowledge and self-confidence in children, parents need to be made aware of and given the correct tools to prepare their children for kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers indicate that up to 1 in 2 children have a somewhat difficult or difficult entry into kindergarten. Parents are a child's first and best teachers, but many parents need and want support in their role of preparing their children for success in school.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a positive, educational atmosphere for parents and children to become comfortable with transition into school. • To model healthy parent-child interaction and learning activities for preschool parents and children. • To increase parent knowledge of age appropriate activities, developmental stages, and school readiness issues. • To help children show progress in being prepared for success in cognitive, social, emotional and physical domains as they enter kindergarten.
Extension response (planned activities – meetings/workshops, bulletins, field days, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer the Gearing Up for Kindergarten educational program, a 10- or 16-session parent/child seminar, to interested clients in North Dakota on a regular basis at selected sites. Offer in collaboration with community partners. • Provide training to Extension staff, program facilitators and community professionals on updated curriculum materials and philosophy, as needed. <p>Provide professional development opportunity to community professionals on the educational materials and related findings on school readiness and parent involvement.</p>
Evaluation plan/tool	A pre/post-survey administered to participants (parents) following program involvement is utilized to evaluate this program.
Anticipated impacts	Participants have indicated the following impacts in previous evaluation efforts and we expect them to continue: (1) High levels of satisfaction with program value (90% plus); (2) High levels of satisfaction with overall workshop quality; (3) Significant increases in participant knowledge and skills regarding children, parenting and school readiness; (4) Significant increases in child school readiness as measured on a variety of indicators (over 70% plus significant increases).