

Video 4: Preparing for School Success

This “Video Library” version of the *Active Parenting: First Five Years* group discussion program is designed for parents to view on their own or in groups. Because group viewing can be enhanced through discussion, the following questions are designed to help a leader facilitate such a discussion. Most of the questions are aimed at helping parents apply the information in the video to their own lives. They can be used in a large group or with parents in pairs or small groups. Ask as many questions as time allows and add or delete questions as you think best for your audience. For longer and more in- depth discussions of the topics covered by the video, you can order a copy of the *Active Parenting: First Five Years* Leader’s Guide from the Discussion version of the program. Experience has shown that parents who read the accompanying *Parent’s Guide* (and complete the home activities that are included) will best be able to utilize the skills presented in the video.* However, when this is not possible, the Parent Handouts (also available for download from www.ActiveParenting.com/FFY) will help. Permission is granted to photocopy the Parent Handouts for this use.

Leading a Group Discussion

Introduce the video by asking a few questions such as:

- ◆ Who can share a success they had at home this week using any of the skills we learned from Video #3 (For example, “choices and consequences” and ways to encourage)?
- ◆ This video is about preparing our children to do well in school. Why do you think it is important for us to know about that when some of our children are still babies?
- ◆ What are two or three things that will be in the video?

Video and Discussion (Play the video and follow with questions such as these:)

1. What is one thing that you learned or relearned from watching this video?
2. Why is *all* play (as long as it is safe and healthy) good for young children?
3. What is “smart play?” What types of smart play do you already do with your kids?
4. One of the “6 Smart Things” described in the video was to “encourage learning.” How did the narrator say that you are doing that right now?
5. What are some ways to get more out of reading aloud to children? What does your child like when you read to him or her?
6. How does naming your child’s feelings help him learn to get along with other children?
7. How did Tania help her 4-year-old son, Jamie, manage his upset feelings when he didn’t want to go out that morning? Have you ever tried this method—granting your child’s wish in fantasy when you can’t grant it in reality?
8. Before we close, who can share some things you’ve learned from this series or some successes you’ve had at home?

Closing

Practice using the skills we learned in this session and be sure to read Chapter 4 in your *Parent’s Guide* and keep using all the skills in it. The more you read and reread and practice, the more results you’ll see. Thanks for being here, and I look forward to seeing you again sometime.

*Order Parent Guides, Leader’s Guide, and other materials at www.activeparenting.com or 800-825-0060.