

# THE GEORGIA EARLY LITERACY ADVANTAGE

## A PARENT'S GUIDE TO BUILDING STRONG READERS FROM THE START (BIRTH-AGE 5)

A 15-Page Expert Report for Georgia Families

*By L.T. Lyles, M.Ed., 30-year Master Teacher*



# A Welcome Letter to Georgia Families

Dear Georgia Families,

Raising confident readers has never mattered more—and as a veteran educator, I’ve seen firsthand the difference early literacy makes in a child’s entire school journey.

But here’s what families often tell me:

- “I don’t want to teach something the wrong way.”
- “I’m not sure what schools expect entering kindergarten.”
- “I want my child to be prepared, but I need simple steps.”

**This guide was created to give you clarity, confidence, and a real advantage**—without the guesswork or feeling overwhelmed.



## **You'll learn:**

- What Georgia schools expect in Pre-K and Kindergarten
- Why early reading weaknesses appear
- The warning signs many families overlook
- The 3 skills Georgia students must master early
- Simple ways to support literacy at home—even if you're not a teacher

No matter where you live in Georgia—or where your child may go to school—this guide will help you understand exactly how to support your child from birth to age five in early literacy.

**You are your child's first and most important teacher.  
And you're not doing this alone.**

Warmly,

***L.T. Lyles***

Creator, Jumpstart Kinder  
M.Ed., 30-year Master Teacher



# Why Early Literacy Matters in Georgia

Georgia's schools place a strong emphasis on literacy from the very beginning. Research across the state shows:

- Students not reading proficiently by 3rd grade are **four times more likely to struggle long-term.**
- Early literacy gaps often appear before **Kindergarten**, not during it.
- Georgia districts increasingly align instruction with the **Science of Reading**, which means early skills matter more than ever.

## **But here's the good news:**

Families who introduce early reading skills—even in small, simple ways—give their children a measurable learning advantage.

This report is designed to help you do exactly that.



# What Georgia Schools Expect (Birth–Age 5)

## Birth–3 Years

Georgia’s Early Learning and Development Standards highlight emergent literacy skills such as:

- listening to language
- recognizing sounds
- early vocabulary
- book awareness

These skills form the “soil” for reading.

## Pre-K (Age 4)

Georgia Pre-K standards expect children to begin:

- identifying letters
- recognizing letter sounds
- blending simple sounds orally
- showing print awareness
- building vocabulary
- listening comprehension

Pre-K is exposure—not mastery—but children benefit when these skills begin at home.



## Kindergarten

Georgia K standards expect children to begin:

- mastering all letter sounds
- blending CVC words (cat, sun, map)
- reading decodable text
- writing phonetic words
- using high-frequency words
- understanding simple stories

The jump between Pre-K and K can feel big. That's where parent-led support makes a dramatic difference.



# Why Some Georgia Students Struggle

As a veteran educator, I commonly see:

## ! 1. Gaps in phonemic awareness

Kids can't hear or separate sounds in words.

## ! 2. Letter-sound confusion

They were taught letters, but not their sounds, or vice versa.

## ! 3. Memorizing words instead of decoding

Many kids memorize books at home—cute, but not reading.

## ! 4. Skipping foundational steps

Parents often jump to sight words before the child is ready.

## ! 5. Inconsistent instruction

Georgia schools vary—some follow structured literacy closely, others are transitioning.

None of these challenges mean a child “can't read.”

They simply mean the approach needs a reset.



# The Foundational Skills Georgia Readers Must Master Early

Every strong Georgia reader has three core skills:

## **1. Phonemic Awareness**

Hearing and manipulating sounds in words.

## **2. Phonics**

Matching sounds to letters and blending to read.

## **3. Language & Comprehension**

Vocabulary, background knowledge, oral storytelling.

If children develop these early, they thrive—no matter their school, district, or teacher.



# What Parents Can Do at Home (Simple, Evidence-Based)

## Good news:

You don't need formal training.  
You don't need to be a teacher.  
You don't need hours a week.



You just need:

- short, consistent practice
- simple routines
- the right sequence

Here are the best activities you can start today:

### ★ Sound games (3 minutes)

“What sound do you hear at the beginning of sun?”

### ★ Letter–sound introduction (1–2 letters at a time)

### ★ Blending practice

Say: “/s/.../a/.../t/. What’s the word?”

### ★ Reading decodable words

Words built only from letters your child has learned.  
These match exactly what Georgia schools expect.

## Why Parent-Led Instruction Works So Well

Georgia families have a major advantage:  
Your child learns best from **you**.

When parents teach early literacy skills:

- confidence grows faster
- frustration decreases
- progress is more consistent
- children absorb skills naturally
- learning feels safe and fun

The method matters—but the teacher matters even more.  
And you are the first teacher your child loves and trusts.



## The Biggest Benefit: Confidence at Kindergarten Entry

A child who enters Kindergarten with:

- letter–sound knowledge
- blending ability
- simple decoding skills

**will:**

- participate more
- feel confident
- avoid early reading frustration
- stay on track with Georgia’s literacy expectations

Confidence early becomes success later.

And you can build this confidence in just minutes a day.



**Introducing...**

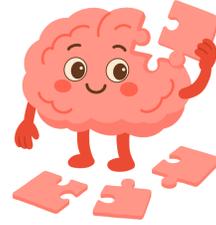
## **Jumpstart Kinder!**

A play-based early reading program created for children ages 0 - 5.

Jumpstart Kinder focuses on language and literacy, two of the skills highly correlated with kindergarten readiness.



## Based on the Science of Reading,



Jumpstart Kinder aligns with the 5 critical English Language Arts components needed to support reading instruction.

Aligned to help parents teach reading the way the brain learns best—step-by-step, in just minutes a day.

1

Phonemic Awareness

2

Phonics

3

Vocabulary

4

Fluency

5

Comprehension

Jumpstart Kinder builds reading readiness, phonics, and early reading confidence.

It is an early reading program providing everything you need to prepare your child for kindergarten success.



## What Your Child Will Gain (Kindergarten Readiness Outcomes)

By the end of Jumpstart Kinder, your child will be able to:

- ✓ Recognize all uppercase and lowercase letters
- ✓ Produce every letter sound
- ✓ Blend CVC words fluently
- ✓ Read simple decodable books and early sight words
- ✓ Demonstrate understanding of how print works
- ✓ Show strong listening comprehension and oral language skills
- ✓ Begin spelling and writing with confidence



**You now understand what Georgia expects—**  
and why you may want to think about starting early.

**Inside Jumpstart Kinder, you get:**

- a complete letter-sound sequence
- step-by-step lessons
- decodable books to apply every new skill
- video and audio support
- fun activities for kids, and routines that fit real life

No guesswork.

No overwhelm

No formal teaching experience needed.



## Next Steps:

If you want to confidently support your child's reading—the same way I've helped many children and their families over the years...

you're invited to join Jumpstart Kinder whenever you're ready. You're giving your child something powerful:

- a strong start, a confident voice, and a love of learning that lasts.

I'll also send you a short email series to introduce you to the structured path that families have used to ensure a confident and enjoyable start to kindergarten.

**Your child is capable of so much.** And you are the most important part of their learning journey.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hi, I'm L.T. Lyles — Founder of Reading Ready Foundations, and the creator behind Jumpstart Kinder, a play-based early reading program for children ages 0 - 5.

Jumpstart Kinder was birthed from my kitchen table when my daughter asked me to teach her son to read. He was months old at the time, and by 2 ½ years old he began reading using this very program. Now Jumpstart Kinder is helping other families build these same early literacy and reading skills.

I've dedicated my life to early literacy, and created Jumpstart Kinder to give families everywhere the tools, confidence, and guidance to help their children thrive from the very beginning.

You can learn more about my story here: [link](#)

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### **Get in Touch**

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