

Nearly half of 5-year-olds in Minnesota aren't ready for kindergarten.



Will your child be ready?

Because up to 90% of brain development happens by age 5, the early years are a critically important time for children to be in stimulating learning environments.

But Minnesota isn't doing well on this front. Nearly half of our children currently are not ready for kindergarten, and too many never catch up.

What can Minnesotans do about this problem? This is the central question addressed in **"Left Behind: The Early Learning Crisis,"** a new public television documentary airing Sunday, February 26 at 8 p.m. on the statewide Minnesota Channel.

One of the reforms analyzed in the documentary is the Parent Aware Ratings system, which has been very successful in a number of pilot communities over the past four years. Parent Aware Ratings is a free service that helps parents find quality child care focused on school readiness. By mid 2012, Parent Aware Ratings will be available to parents in Itasca County.

To learn more about what Minnesotans can do to prepare our youngest children for school and life, watch the Minnesota Channel offered by your local public television station February 26 at 8 p.m.

Want to know if your child is on track to be ready for kindergarten?

Take the quiz at **IsYourChildReady.com**

Want to find child care providers using the best practices for preparing children for kindergarten?

Go to **ParentAwareRatings.org**



Sponsored by Parent Aware for School Readiness, a business-led non-profit committed to promoting and protecting the Parent Aware Ratings.