

# 10 Ways to Prepare Your Child for College Academically and Financially

1. Set expectations early that you expect your child to attend college by saving early. Research shows that students are more likely to attend and graduate from college when their families saved for it – even if it was just a small amount, \$500 or less.
2. Enrich your child's vocabulary and promote a love for reading. Having a strong vocabulary is a key predictor of school readiness.
3. Engage in nurturing and affirming “back and forth” interactions with your child to form strong bonds and build healthy brain architecture. The free mobile app [Vroom](#) has great daily activities you can do with your child.
4. Help your child think about the concept of saving for college by teaching them about saving in a piggy bank, to buy a special toy or book.
5. Use high-quality tools such as the Ages and Stages [Questionnaire](#) to identify and track your child's development. It's important to identify and address concerns early, when interventions can be most effective.
6. Make a budget plan for college savings. Click [here](#) to determine how much you need to save each month based on your child's age, and pick the [Prepaid Plan](#) that's right for your budget.
7. Engage your child in enriching summer activities at home or in the community. Use technology to facilitate ongoing learning, especially during the summer months. Go [online](#) to resources offered by the Campaign for Grade Level Reading for more ideas on how to keep their brain working!
8. Tell relatives and other loved ones that you're saving for your child's college! Instead of buying toys, they might just want to give the lasting gift of a college education. The [1-Year University Plan](#) allows multiple family members to share in the cost of a child's college tuition, starting at just \$47 a month. You can also invite friends and family to contribute to a Florida 529 Savings Plan through our eGift platform.
9. Establish an expectation and a plan for daily school attendance.
10. Take time to surf around [myfloridaprepaid.com](#) to learn more about college savings – even if high school graduation day seems a long way off!