

How to Have a Smooth Transition to Kindergarten

Your child may have just started preschool, but soon it will be time to get ready for kindergarten! Use this guide to prepare for the transition to kindergarten.

Prekindergarten Year

- Build good attendance habits.
- Have a backup transportation plan to be sure your child can get to school.
- Regularly ask your child about their school day.
- Read all materials the school sends home.
- Ask a teacher or school staff member how to get involved at your child's school!

January - February

Contact your district's Early Childhood department or your child's future elementary school for information on how to register your child for kindergarten and any upcoming kindergarten events.



March - May

Take the required documents to the school to complete the enrollment process:

- Birth certificate
- Social Security Card (if available)
- Florida Physical HRS form supplied by a doctor (must be within one year of school start date)
- Florida Immunization Record on HRS hard card supplied by a doctor
- Two forms of verification of address that prove where you live but are NOT your driver's license or state-issued ID card (for example, a utility bill, lease or a contract to purchase a home)



May - August

- Help your child develop independence by practicing self-help skills (e.g., buttons/unbuttons, buckles/unbuckles, zips, snaps, laces shoes, fastens tabs). See the tip sheet “What Your Child Needs to Know to be Ready for Kindergarten.”
- Visit a local library with your child to read and check out books about starting kindergarten. See the Transition to Kindergarten Booklist for a list of suggested book titles.

Two weeks before school starts

- Talk with your child about what to expect during the school day and about making new friends.
- Start an evening “going-to-bed” routine and a morning “getting-ready” routine.
- If your child will bring a lunch or snack, practice opening and closing food containers and bags.

One week before school starts

- Plan to attend a back-to-school event to learn more about the school’s kindergarten program and to meet your child’s teacher.
- Speak with the school nurse and your child’s teacher if your child has allergies, dietary restrictions or special needs.
- Practice walking from the school drop-off to the classroom with your child to develop confidence.
- Help your child lay out their clothes and backpack to get ready for their school routine.

First day of school!

- Allow plenty of time to get ready and travel to school.
- Make sure your child and their teacher know how the child will be getting home.
- Have fun and celebrate the first day of kindergarten together!



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