

Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten Orientation

How to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten

Preparing for Learning

- Make time to read daily to your child and have conversations around what you have read: Who were the characters? What did you like best? How did they solve the problem?
- Practice counting objects in everyday life: counting socks in the laundry, carrots on the plate, stairs, etc.
- Give your child opportunities to use paper and pencil, especially to practice writing their name.
- Have “academic” conversations with your child, using descriptive vocabulary (colors sizes) and asking open-ended questions. Keep in mind that children learn to speak by imitation, so model for them how to speak clearly in complete sentences and ask them to do the same.



Preparing for separation and classroom setting

- Help your child get excited for Kindergarten and set a positive outlook for school.
- Give your child opportunities to separate from you before school starts by doing play dates, spending time with grandparents, enrolling in summer programs, etc.
- Help your child become familiar with their school by bringing them around the school during the summer to play on the playground, show them the main entrance, and walk through campus.
- Practice praise and encouragement with your child to support them in taking risks and trying new things.
- Show your child how to solve problems without aggression by modeling how to work out problems by talking respectfully.
- Build up excitement and positivity the week before school starts.

Preparing for Independence

- Teach your child basic self help skills that they will be expected to do on their own in school, such as: how to use the bathroom (undo pants, flush the toilet, zip back up, wash hands), blow their nose, pack up their backpack, take jacket on and off, tie their shoes, etc.
- If your child will be bringing a snack to school, they should know how to unpack their snacks, open and close containers, and clean up after themselves.
- Label all personal items with your child’s name: coats, sweaters, backpacks, lunch boxes, snack bags, etc.

