

Pre-School to Kindergarten Transition Tips for Families

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Preparing children for the transition to kindergarten does not mean "getting them ready" by focusing on a checklist of skills, drilling on new rules, or retaining them in preschool for another year. Children need to be honored for wherever they are and given rich opportunities for further growth and development.

Families Can:



Remember you are an EQUAL partner at IEP meetings in your child's education. Children are more successful when their families are involved in schools.



Make scrapbook or slide show of new school and staff. Show often to child to familiarize her/him with building and people.



Share your expertise about your child. Your knowledge is important!



Ask for a copy of what kindergarteners will be learning and studying.



Get information about bus/school schedules, parent/teacher organizations, and volunteer opportunities.



Talk with new teachers in August. Prioritize what needs to be in place before 1st day of school. Decide on best way to communicate during year.



Speak up when you are unsure of what was said and ask clarifying questions:
Can you tell me a little more about...? What would it take to...? Do you mean...?



Take your child to visit the school in the spring and again at the end of the summer. Find the library, gym, bathrooms, etc.



Ask which teacher will have the primary responsibility for your child's learning.



Attend kindergarten orientation with your child.



During the summer play on the school playground so that will be one more spot your child is familiar with.



Get to know other families in the class/school.