

The Year Before Kindergarten

So, your child starts kindergarten next year...

In the year before kindergarten you should be laying a foundation for your child's transition to kindergarten. You can begin the process by:

- Identifying the school that your child will be assigned to next year, or in some cases, choosing which school your child will attend.
- Call your county school board office information line. This number can usually be located in the government pages of the phone book.
- In some states, parents may enroll their child in the school of their choice or a magnet school. Find out if this is an available option for you.
- Visiting the school or schools that your child might attend. Bring your child with you on those visits.
- Begin connecting with other families. Find parents with children who will enter kindergarten at the same school next year. This is a good time for you to get to know the other adults. You can support each other in an emergency situation, take turns waiting at the bus stop, or car-pool.

Obtaining the following information from the school:

- A list of entry requirements (immunizations, documentation, child's age, physical, etc.)
- An enrollment form
- School calendar and times of operation
- Information about after-school programs (if available)
- Transportation information (pick-up location, hours, telephone number of the county transportation office, rules)
- Dates for kindergarten registration and/or screening
- What meal options are provided, requirements for free and reduced lunches, and the cost of meals
- A description of the kindergarten program.

