

Kindergarten Here We Come!



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration begins March 1st. Your child must be 5 years old on or before **August, 31st** to enroll. Documents that are needed to register your child:



- ◆ Certified copy of your child's birth certificate.
- ◆ Proof of residence showing name and address of parent or court-appointed guardian.

Complete the North Carolina Health Assessment Transmittal Form and Immunization this information is due 30 days after enrollment.

JUST BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

- Start new routines.
- Set regular bedtime and wake-up time.
- Choose school clothes the night before.
- Learn school transportation procedures.
- Tell your child how proud you are of him or her!

How Do I Know if My Child is Ready For Kindergarten?

What should my child know before entering Kindergarten?

While there's no perfect formula that determines when children are truly ready for kindergarten, you can use this checklist to see how well your child is doing in acquiring the skills found on most kindergarten checklists. Young children change so fast -- if they can't do something this week, they may be able to do it a few weeks later.



- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Understand actions have both causes and effects
- Show understanding of general times of day
- Cut with scissors
- Trace basic shapes

- Begin to share with others
- Start to follow rules
- Be able to recognize authority
- Manage bathroom needs
- Button shirts, pants, coats, and zip up zippers
- Begin to control oneself
- Separate from parents without being upset
- Speak understandably
- Talk in complete sentences of five to six words
- Look at pictures and then retell stories
- Identify rhyming words
- Identify the beginning sound of some words

- Identify some alphabet letters
- Recognize some common sight words like "stop"
- Sort similar objects by color, size, and shape
- Recognize groups of one, two, three, four, and five objects
- Count to ten
- Bounce a ball

Remember that as a parent, you are your child's first teacher. Your child will learn and develop many skills while at school, but those that he learns from you - how to cooperate, follow directions, and clean up after himself - will help him get off to a great start in kindergarten!

Information from Family Education School: school.familyeducation.com.



Where will your child attend Kindergarten?

Not sure of your neighborhood school? Want to find out more about magnet registration?

Contact Guilford County Schools (GCS) at **336-370-8303** if you are unsure which elementary school your child will attend. Or visit their website at www.gcsnc.com and click on the "School Locator".

Go to the GCS website to get further information about Magnet Schools and more information about specific elementary schools.



Pledge Your Support For Lifelong Learning

Here are few tips to help you provide the support your child needs to grow as a life long learner and to build a positive relationship with his/her school.

- ⇒ Promote and support the school leadership on academic excellence. Meet the principal, ask about the school's goals and improvement plan, and ask how you can be involved.
- ⇒ Actively monitor your child's progress by visiting, calling, asking questions and following through on activities.
- ⇒ Ensure your child has adequate nutrition, rest, and time and a place to study.

- ⇒ Participate in school activities.
- ⇒ Enter the school with a positive attitude, volunteering your time, talents, ideas and concerns.
- ⇒ Never stop learning yourself. Read and learn with your child, attend workshops and meetings, and read or listen to your child read. Allow your child to see that you have placed a high value on life long learning.
- ⇒ Track your child's growth and progress. Take time to understand what grades, reports and scores mean. Ask questions until you clearly understand the answer.



Preparing for the Transition

The transition to Kindergarten will mean many changes for you and your child: new school, new friends, new teacher, new rules, etc. Here are simple activities you can do before Kindergarten starts.

1. Visit the new school, meet the principal, teacher, other important staff.
2. Identify a study area at home for homework.
3. Talk with your child about the new school with excitement.
4. Gather the necessary school supplies.
5. Establish a routine for morning time and after school time. Be sure to stay consistent with the routines.
6. Read aloud to your child 20 minutes each night.
7. If your child has special needs, provide information about your child's current needs at Kindergarten Registration.
8. If your child receives support services, meet with the service provider at the new school and share information about your child's services.
9. Make several visits to the school if needed to give you child time to become familiar with their new environment.
10. Discuss with your child's current teacher how and what information, (IEP, service plan) will be sent to the new school.



First Day Jitters

The first day of Kindergarten arrives! Keep these things in mind so you can get off to a great start.

Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep each night.

Provide a good nutritious breakfast either at home or ensure they arrive early for breakfast at school.

See that your child arrives at school on time, but not before proper supervision is available.



Eliminate the rush in the morning - prepare backpacks, lunches, and clothes the night before.

Keep your child healthy by encouraging proper hand washing.

Talk positively and enthusiastically about school. Celebrate successes!

Be understanding when your child expresses anxiety about going to Kindergarten or during the first couple days of school.

Quick Tips



- Build a positive relationship with your child's teacher
- Know who important school contacts are; principal, teacher, guidance counselor
- Find out about parent volunteer opportunities
- Share your child's health and special needs with school staff
- Be aware of your child's drop off and pick up times
- Check your child's backpack daily for important information
- Encourage your child to talk about his or her feelings or worries
- Read together every night

