MARCH INTO KINDERGARTEN
Starting school can be scary and exciting for both you and your child. While the start of every new school year is a special occasion, the first day of kindergarten may be the biggest learning milestone there is. No matter how overwhelmed, emotional, or nervous you or your child may be, it's important to know that they're in good hands.

It's normal for a child to exhibit many emotions on the first day. Some children face separation anxiety, which leads to crying, while others run around uncontrollably because they're so excited. These behaviors and others are completely normal. It's important to know that teachers are trained to properly care for children, and eventually, your child will adjust and feel comfortable with their new school-day routine.

Most likely, your child will have a wonderful start to their school life and will come home full of excitement and tales of all that has happened each day. But, be prepared for ups and downs along the way. Above all things, enjoy sharing every moment of their magical learning journey!
REGISTRATION TIMELINE

**March-May:**
- Make a list of schools of interest.
- Schedule to tour prospective schools.
- Register with the school when ready.

**June-July:**
- Talk with your child about school.
- Mark the first day of school on the calendar!
- Check with the School or District for supply need.

**August:**
- Verify registration.
- Finalize school supplies.
- Continue to talk with your child about school.
- Attend open house.

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WHAT DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

- Typically, schools require your child's birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residence and guardianship records (if needed or applicable).

- Be aware that some of these documents may need to be notarized before submitting them to your school.
“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

DR SEUSS
TRANSITIONING TO KINDERGARTEN

BEDTIME ROUTINES
Bedtime routines ensure kids get a good night's sleep and will be ready for the next day's adventures.

READING ROUTINES
Families are encouraged to read with their children for at least 20 minutes a day to build language and literacy skills.

FAMILY MEALTIME ROUTINES
You can build in routines around mealtime that will be useful to your children in school, such as washing their hands before dinner or teaching them how to clear dishes from the table.
MEET THE TEACHER
It's important for your child to visit their new school if they can, so check with your school for open house, meet and greet, or other events prior to the first day of school.

READ ABOUT THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Make your book choices all about school preparedness in the run up to September and your little scholar will feel ready to join in all the kindergarten fun.

PRACTICE GETTING READY
If your child is new to formal education, they might find the busy mornings even more of an adjustment. Consider testing out a few morning practice runs so everyone feels prepared.

ROLE PLAY SELF-CARE SKILLS
Your little ones need to know how to care for their own needs when they enter school. That includes going to the bathroom, dressing, and washing their hands.

GO SHOPPING
There is something fun and almost magical about school shopping. When possible, let your child pick out their new backpack, pencil case, lunch box, and water bottle, then get crafty and customize them together.

LABEL EVERYTHING
Make sure to label backpacks, lunch boxes - everything your child brings to school. Discuss the concept of "lost and found".

SEND A NOTE IF YOUR CHILD HAS SPECIAL NEEDS
Do this even if you have indicated this on other forms already. As a parent, you have the responsibility to advocate for your child’s health and safety.
FROM HOME TO SCHOOL

The importance of parents' involvement in their child's transition from home to school cannot be stressed enough. With the support of a caring parent, this transition can be a positive experience for a child, giving him or her a sense of self-confidence and accomplishment.

1. Read books to your child and talk about the pictures and the story.
2. Give your child opportunities to leave you and spend time with other adults and children.
3. Give your child opportunities to play with items like scissors, crayons, pencils, markers, paint and paper.
4. Encourage your child's independence by letting him follow simple directions and by letting him do tasks on his own.
5. Ask your child what she thinks school will be like. You may learn that your child understands what to expect, or you may find that she has unrealistic fears or misunderstandings. Listen and talk about school.
6. Your positive outlook can help your child; let them know you are confident in their ability to do well.

www.starting-point.org
RESOURCES

Kindergarten is your child's first school experience. There is a lot you can do to help him or her get the best start. Check out the helpful resources below!

KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST

TRANSITIONING TO KINDERGARTERN

TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD TRANSITION FROM HOME TO SCHOOL

TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Are you looking for out of school time care, childcare or preschool for younger children?

Contact Starting Point at:
216.575.0061 or www.Starting-Point.org