

Transition Resources for Families

The transition to kindergarten is an important milestone for children and families that can feel both exciting and overwhelming. Here are some answers to common questions families may have about the transition to kindergarten along with resources to help you prepare your child for going to kindergarten. Remember if you have specific questions or concerns about your child's transition, reach out to the school your child will be attending.

Frequently Asked Questions about Kindergarten

How can I find out which public school my child will attend?

If you live in a district with more than one elementary school, you can contact the superintendent's office (SAU) to find out which school your child will attend based on where you live.

When does kindergarten registration/screenings take place?

This varies by school district. Some districts begin kindergarten registration in the winter and others begin in the spring. School districts typically advertise kindergarten registration on their websites, through local newspapers, or through social media. Some school districts advertise kindergarten registration through local early childhood education providers or through other community organizations.

Kindergarten screenings vary by district. They may take place in the spring or summer before kindergarten or during the beginning of the school year. You can always reach out to the SAU office to find out when kindergarten registration/screenings take place.

What documents do I need to register my child for kindergarten?

You will need to provide the following documents:

- A copy of your child's official birth certificate from the town/city where your child was born
- Proof of residence, accepted documents typically include a copy of a lease with contact information for the landlord, utility bills (telephone, electric, cable), bank statement, or payroll check
- Immunization records
- Documentation of recent physical exam
- Legal/ Court paperwork, as applicable

Where can I find information about the kindergarten daily schedule/hours, a school calendar, and a class supply list?

Reach out to your child's school for this information. The school calendar is usually posted on the school or SAU website. Class supply lists vary by school; some schools provide all the supplies needed for kindergarten.

How do I find out information about the bus schedule or before/after school care options?

Contact your child's school or the SAU office to find out this information. Bus routes/schedules are typically posted on the school or district website and sometimes in local newspapers. If you need before/after school care options, spots in some programs may fill up quickly so be sure to reach out if you are not sure what before/after school care options exist within your community.

How will I be able to communicate with my child's teacher?

Teachers typically share information about the easiest way to contact them right before school begins. Most teachers communicate through email or communication apps and are willing to set up phone calls or virtual/in-person meetings. You can ask your child's teacher what is the best way to contact them.

How can I be involved in my child's school?

Schools often host family events throughout the school year and will send home notices or post information on their websites about these events. Schools usually have parent-teacher organizations (PTO/PTA) that are a good way for families to learn about the school and get involved with your child's school. Be sure to check your child's backpack for information throughout the school year.

What is a Kindergarten Entry Assessment?

Kindergarten entry assessments are evidence-based tools that are designed to measure children's skill and knowledge development across multiple domains when they begin kindergarten. Information from these assessments is used by teachers to plan learning activities and shared with families so they can understand their child's development.

What is a kindergarten screener?

Kindergarten screeners are a quick check of children's development across different domains. Screenings identify children's strengths and areas where children may need additional support. A common screener used is the Ages & Stages Questionnaires. These questionnaires check children's development in communication, social skills, motor skills, and problem-solving skills or social-emotional development. For more information on developmental screenings, see <https://www.nh-connections.org/families/helping-children-grow/>.

What is play-based learning in kindergarten?

New Hampshire has a law that was passed in 2018 stating that kindergarten instruction should follow a play-based model. This law was based on the understanding that the purpose of kindergarten is to socialize children and prepare them for formal education through exploration, movement, expression, and play. The law highlights the need to foster children's development and learning across domains, which includes physical, social, cognitive, and language, through play-based learning. Play-based learning is an instructional strategy to promote learning that includes movement, creative expression, exploration, socialization, and music and allows children to connect authentically with content as they co-construct their learning with teachers and peers. For more information on play-based learning in New Hampshire, see <https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/deputy-commissioner/kindergarten-tool-kit> and <https://chhs.unh.edu/early-childhood/play-based-learning-coaching-teaching>

Resources

[Transitioning to Kindergarten | NAEYC](#)

[A Successful Kindergarten Transition - NEA Parents Resources | NEA](#)

[Selected Children's Books About Kindergarten | ECLKC \(hhs.gov\)](#)

[How to Get Your Child Ready for the First Day of Kindergarten | Johns Hopkins Medicine](#)

[Is Your Child Ready for Kindergarten? Prepare Them With These 20 Skills | Scholastic | Parents](#)