



Transition to Kindergarten

LET'S GET READY!

For Families



Dear Families,

Congratulations! Your child will soon begin kindergarten. This is a very exciting time for you and your young learner. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) would like to ensure that your child enters kindergarten ready and eager to learn! A **Transition to Kindergarten Family Summer Tool Kit** has been developed to support families as they work with their rising kindergartener and reinforce early learning skills during the summer. Have a wonderful and learning summer!



Transition to Kindergarten Family Summer Tool Kit



M-DCPS prekindergarten students have access to the Waterford online program throughout the summer!

*Contact your child's Pre-K teacher for details
or call 305.995.7632



Support your child's kindergarten readiness by viewing the ReadyRosie Modeled Moment Videos and participate in these fun and developmentally appropriate activities with your child.



[Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Families Vroom](#)

The Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Families will help you support your child's learning and development as they get ready for kindergarten. Here you will learn about what your child learned in Pre-K and what you can do at home to ensure they are ready for kindergarten.

Did you know that through everyday experiences, parents can strengthen their bond with their child and help build their brain as well as important language, math, reading and social-emotional skills?

Here are some tips to support you as you teach your child about the things you do and see each day—in whatever language you feel comfortable speaking at home. The more you engage with your child during your everyday moments together, the more you are preparing your child to succeed!

#EVERYWHERELEARNING TIP SHEET



Talk with Your Child...

- Label and describe experiences as they occur.
- Ask open-ended questions that require more than “yes”, “no” or “one-word” answers.
- Ask “how” and “why” questions.
- Use new words with your child and encourage them to use new words.
- Repeat and build upon what your child says.
- Have fun with language and encourage them to be curious.



Around the House...

- Provide opportunities to make every day experiences at home “learning experiences”. Make writing tools accessible and promote their use. Allow your child to write “in their own way” (scribbling, drawing, letter-like forms, invented spelling, conventional spelling).
 - Ask your child to help you write shopping lists of everyday household items.
 - Encourage your child to write letters to family and friends.
 - Provide opportunities to label objects at home.
 - Allow your child to draw regularly about their feelings and discuss their illustrations.
- Have your child go on a “letter-hunt” using boxes and cans found in the pantry.
- While looking through the mail, encourage your child to read environmental print they are familiar with such as logos of favorite foods and stores advertised in weekly newspapers.
- Ask your child to make comparisons (smallest, shortest, heaviest, same as, etc.) of cans, bottles, fruits and vegetables found in the kitchen.
- Let your child sort the laundry by color; who it belongs to; type of clothing.
- Engage your child to participate in cooking, cleaning, and yard work experiences.



In the Car ...

- Keep an activity box with books, drawing materials, large dice, card games, puzzles and any other materials that are of interest to your child.
- Encourage your child to keep a pictorial journal during car rides. Add dictations about each picture once you arrive at the location.
- Provide sing-along or storybook audio experiences while riding in the car.
- Before a long trip, research and read with your child about the destination to help your child look forward to the journey. Map out points of interest along the way together.
- Play Family Games such as "I Spy", searching for animals, letters and numbers; counting colored cars, matching sign shapes, and having fun with language by making up silly rhymes. When your child's attention begins to wander, switch to another game or take a break.
- Plan frequent stretch-and-bend stops to satisfy wiggles. Always remember to pack comfort toys like favorite pillow or stuffed animal!



Read with Your Child Every Day...

Designate a "reading time" for the whole family or a time when "you and your child" sit down to read. As you read:

- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Engage in picture walk-talks by encouraging your child to read the pictures and talk about what they see.
- Promote word awareness by moving your finger along under the words.
- Point to and talk about the pictures that go with the words.
- Pause while you read and ask your child what they think might happen next.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about what is being read including "why" questions.
- Introduce and talk about a word that is new to your child.
- At the end of the story, talk about your child's favorite parts and why they liked or disliked the story.
- Ask your child to tell a story for you to write down. Read the story back to your child.
- Make a book out of your child's writing. Have your child draw pictures to go with the words or scribbles.
- Read and talk about numbers in counting books, pointing and counting the objects on each page.
- Share stories about your child's life as a baby and a toddler, as well as stories about when you were a child. Share photo albums of when your child was little and discuss how much they have changed.
- Choose books based on your child's interests.
- Choose fiction and non-fiction books and discuss differences.
- Choose nursery rhyme books and point out rhyming words. While reading rhyming books, pause before the rhyme and see if your child is able to tell the rhyme.
- Discuss the parts of a story - beginning, middle and end.
- Identify letters and words that are familiar.
- Have your child read a favorite book and use pictures for clues to the story.
- Describe the feelings of the characters in the story.
- Choose books from the same author. Help your child make comparisons between books.
- Discuss the conclusion and create a new ending for it. What would have happened if.....?
- Read the same books over and over again.
- Be **excited** about reading with your child. **It's contagious!**



Drawing & Writing with Your Child...

Allow your child to write "in their own way" (scribbling, drawing, letter-like forms, invented spelling, conventional spelling).

- Assign a consistent location for drawing and writing tools.
- Encourage your child to write "in their own way" about summer experiences.
- Ask your child to read to you what they write.
- Talk about the formation of letters (Letter Tt-line top to bottom/line left to right) as you model making the letter.
- Have your child practice writing their first and last name with only the first letter capitalized.
- Allow your child to write a shopping list, a letter to grandma, a text to daddy, a hopscotch outside, labels for his drawers, etc.
- Model writing for your child.

Celebrate your child's writing! Display their writing around the house 😊

More Tips...

- Practice following 2-3 step **instructions** "Please go get your shoes and then put them on".
- Talk about and model **social skills**: sharing, taking turns, positive words, social problem solving.
- Help your child take **responsibility**: clean up messes, dress themselves, get their own snacks.

MOST IMPORTANT: Build **self-esteem**: Praise your child often and make them feel special.

Read! Read! Read!

- Access the M-DCPS K-12 Summer Reading website at <http://read.dadeschools.net>.
- Visit <http://www.mdpls.org>
- Apply for a library card.
- Check out eBooks, audiobooks, music, videos, and more.
- Participate in engaging and meaningful summer events.
- Participate in Storytime and Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, and Sing strategies.

Kindergarten Summer Reading List...

Research has shown that an early predictor of future reading success is whether a child is read to when young. Below are some titles to get you started!

The following books are suggestions of appropriate books to read with your Rising Kindergartener. Please access the children's section of your local library for other suggestions.

Books About Kindergarten

- *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg.
- *Kindergarten Rocks! ...by* Katie Davis
- *Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes* by James Dean
- *Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes.
- *On the Way to Kindergarten* by Virginia Kroll.
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate
- *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing
- **Books About Me**
- *Leo the Late Bloomer* by Rober Kraus
- *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle
- *I Like Me!* by Nancy L. Carlson
- *I Like to Be Little* by Charlotte Zolotow
- *Incredible You! 10 Ways to let your greatness shine through* by Dr. Wayne Dyer
- *My Five Senses* by Alik
- *Owen* by Kevin Henkes

- *When I Get Bigger* by Mercer Mayer

Family Stories

- *Mama, do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joosse
- *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman
- *Just Me Books* by Mercer Mayer
- *My Dad Loves Me!* by Marianne Richmond
- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney

Color and Counting Books

- *Each Orange Had Eight Slices: A Counting Book* by Paul Giganti Jr.
- *Fish Eyes* by Lois Ehlert
- *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni
- *26 Letters and 99 Cents* by Tana Hoban
- *Is it Red? Is it Yellow? Is it Blue?* by Tana Hoban
- *Press Here* by Hervé Tullet
- *Ten Little Fish* by Audrey Wood

Caldecott Winners and Honor Books

- *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
- *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens
- *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
- *Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert
- *More, More, More, Said the Baby* by Vera B. Williams
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni

Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes

- *Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose* by Tomie dePaola
- *James Marshall's Mother Goose* by James Marshall
- *My Very First Mother Goose* by Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells

Folktales and Fairy Tales

- *Three Little Pigs* by James Marshall
- *Cinderella* by Marcia Brown
- *The Hare and the Tortoise* by Brian Wildsmith
- *The Little Red Hen* by Margot Zemach
- *The Three Little Bears* by Paul Galdone
- *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Anderson

Predictable Books

- *50 Below Zero* by Robert Munsch
- *Curious George* by H.A. Rey
- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Gregory the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat
- *The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone
- *The Mitten* by Jan Brett

Beginning, Middle, and End Concepts

- *3 Billy Goats Gruff* by Glen Rounds
- *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins
- *Bony Legs* by Jeanna Cole
- *It's Mine* by Leo Lionni
- *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown

Family Involvement Calendar...

This calendar is designed to provide families and their child with fun and interesting daily activities to practice skills necessary for kindergarten readiness.

- Make sure the Family Involvement Calendar is posted in a visible location.
- Help your child become familiar with routines by completing a calendar activity at the same time each day.
- Use the calendar as a learning tool: point to letters, numbers, and sequence of calendar.

Week 1						
Go outside and look at the clouds. Use descriptive words to talk about what you see. Use these words throughout the week when you go outside.	Start a conversation with your child about how he feels about Pre-K ending. Read books about Kindergarten.	Visit the Miami-Dade County Public Library website with your child at http://www.mdpls.org	Discuss with your child that Father's Day is approaching. Talk about the meaning of Father's Day and special things we can do for dad.	Make a list of all the ways dad is special. Draw a picture of dad. Talk about the different parts of the body and help your child include hair, eye color, etc.	Explain what a hobby is. Discuss with Dad what his favorite hobby is. Draw a picture of dad doing his favorite hobby.	Make a special snack for Dad. Look through photo albums and highlight special events with the family.
Week 2						
Let your child count the number of socks in the hamper while doing laundry. Let them separate the socks by pairs and count each pair.	Read a book about plants (The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle). Plant seeds for flowers or vegetables.	Have your child create a story about their best friend. Write it and read it together. Plan a playdate with their best friend.	Look at pictures in a book and then predict what will happen next. Read the story together.	Talk about jobs, discuss where you work, how your job helps the family, and other kinds of jobs. What jobs can your child do?	During bath time, provide measuring cups. How many small cups does it take to fill up a cup? Talk about more and less.	Listen to a new radio station today. Discuss how the music is different. Choose some old toys to donate to charity.
Week 3						
Discuss the importance of bike safety. (wearing helmets, pads, following traffic rules) Go on a bike ride around your neighborhood.	Create family rules, and discuss the importance of rules. Make a chart with both words and pictures to help remember the rules.	Make a simple musical instrument with recyclables or kitchen items. Make a band and play instruments as you march around the house.	Discuss tall and short. Measure family members with yarn and arrange pieces from shortest to tallest.	Keep real dress-up clothes handy for your child to play with. Create a special spot to dress-up.	Observe seeds planted last week. Discuss and illustrate findings in a science journal.	Dance with your child to music. Find a scarf or piece of material to dance with.
Week 4						
Take a walk around the neighborhood. Count how many jumps it takes to get to certain objects.	Count the number of stars and stripes on the American flag. Draw and color a picture of the flag. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.	Read a book about the Fourth of July. Search the internet for information about July 4 th . Help your child explain why this day is important.	Help your child select red, white and blue clothing to wear on this day. Go on a picnic and celebrate independence.	Have your child help make a meal by tossing a salad, spreading peanut butter on a sandwich, or washing fruit.	Talk about what you did on the 4 th of July. Have your child draw a picture and describe what they drew.	Look at the seeds you planted. Draw a picture in your science journal. Measure how tall it has grown. Discuss the changes from before.

Week 5						
Plan a car ride around the city. On your way, help your child keep a tally of all the red cars you see along the way. Count the tally.	Research a simple recipe on how to make playdough. Make a list of ingredients for the grocery store visit.	Have your child practice writing her name using upper and lower-case letters. Discuss letter formation (lines, circles, curves)	Make playdough together. Discuss the changes in matter as you mix the ingredients. Write about it in their science journal.	Go outside and collect rocks. Discuss the different attributes observed (smooth, rough, bumpy, colors). Sort rocks by attributes.	Use adult clothes and let your child dress like a teacher. Role-play some of the experiences your child will have in kindergarten.	Find 5 things in your home that are shaped like a circle, square, triangle, and rectangle. Talk about other shapes you see.
Week 6						
Play a simple board or card game like Chutes and Ladder or Go Fish. Discuss rules, taking turns, and following directions.	Brainstorm ways to conserve water. Where can your family help? Validate your child each time you catch them conserving water.	Look at the plant you planted. Draw a picture of what you see. Measure how tall it has grown. Compare and discuss the changes from before.	Go outside and look at objects that are near or far. What other things are near or far?	Read a rhyming book together. Pause while reading the story and let your child guess the rhyming word. Make up silly rhymes together.	Use a ruler, tape measure, or another object to measure items in your home. What is longer? Shorter? The same length? Discuss findings.	Discuss the importance of protection from the sun. (wearing sunscreen, hats) Go outside and blow bubbles.
Week 7						
Discuss with your child how he feels about starting kindergarten. Ask open-ended questions to expand the conversation.	Visit your school's website for school supplies needed for kindergarten. Let your child help you shop for those supplies online.	Practice tossing a ball back and forth. Count how many times you can toss and catch without dropping it.	Have your child count the number of shoes in their closet. Talk about the differences and similarities of the shoes.	Draw a self-portrait. Talk with your child about what makes them special. Display the portrait in your home.	Plan a back-to-school party with your family or friends. Make a list of people to attend and plan activities to participate in.	Visit the library and check out e books about kindergarten and going to school. Visit your school website for information.
Week 8						
Make a playdough structure. Add items to enhance sculpting. Ask open-ended questions about sculpture.	Talk about starting school with your child. Establish a bedtime and morning routine and begin practicing it.	Have your child re-tell one of the e-books checked out from the library. Draw pictures of their favorite part.	In a pool or bath tub, add items that will sink or float. Talk with your child about what makes the items sink/float.	Make a "First Day of Kindergarten" banner. Let your child color and decorate.	Review your home rules. Ask your child what they think the kindergarten rules will be?	Make a family photo album for your child. Talk about each person and where they live.

Home-School connections are an important element in your child's school success. Talk with your child daily about their feelings about school and their school day. Continue to ask how and why questions. The activities in **Weeks 9 and 10** are provided to use once they begin kindergarten.

Week 9						
Have your child select a special outfit/shoes/bow to wear on their first day of kindergarten. Read the Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn. Talk about what to expect the first day of school.	Use "First Day of Kindergarten" banner to take a special picture of your child. After school: talk about what happened, ask about school rules.	Talk about things that are the same in Kindergarten as in Pre-K. Talk about things that are different.	Have your child talk about their new friends and new teacher. Discuss uncertainties and reassure your child that kindergarten will be a wonderful experience.	Draw pictures and talk about what you liked most about Kindergarten.	Add special school events to your family calendar. Plan a time to volunteer or do something special in your child's class.	Go outside tonight. Discuss the differences between night and day. (How things look, what do you hear?)
Week 10						
Have your child practice buttoning, zipping, and snapping own clothes, plus buckling belt and tying shoes.	Help your child draw a map of your home. Talk about the different places in your house (kitchen, bedroom, living room, bathroom...)	Play a simple board game, practice following the rules and taking turns. Talk about other times you have to follow rules and take turns.	Allow your child to help set the table for dinner. Talk about how many people will be eating and how many plates, forks, and napkins you will need.	Talk about chores and discuss some chores they can do. Create a calendar with chores for your child to refer to daily.	Talk with your child about new/old friends in their Kindergarten class. Discuss with your child what it is that they like about their friends.	Have your child select a special place they would like to visit with the family. Talk with your child about how much they have grown and why they are special.