

Introduction: Entry Into Kindergarten

The reason to get a child ready for kindergarten is so he/she has a good start with "the big school." Kindergarten may be different from the way it was when you were a child.

This time can be exciting and stressful for your whole family. Children ask where they will be going and what they will be doing. Parents have lots of questions too! Parents wonder if their child is ready for school. They wonder how their child will adjust to his/her teacher.

Every child who is five years old on or before November 1, 2013 may go to kindergarten, free of charge. The entry age for kindergarten will be gradually changed to require that children be five years old by September 1.

- For the 2014-2015 school year, children must be five years old on or before October 1.*
- For the 2015-2016 school year (and beyond), children must be five years old on or before September 1.*

To prepare your child, you can partner with the adults or teachers who are in your child's life now.

Benefits:

For the child:

- More confidence.
- Good contacts with other children and adults.
- A chance to learn new things.

For the parent:

- More confidence that your child will succeed in school.
- Sense of pride and involvement in your child's school.
- Feel respected as a partner in your child's education.
- Sense of pride with what you have already taught your child.

The following series of *Parent Guides* were designed to help you. You are your child's first and most important teacher. You can help make your child's start into kindergarten successful.

****Please see Parent Guide #4 for information about an early entry option for kindergarten enrollment.***