

# Getting Ready for Kindergarten Checklist

## October-January

- \_\_\_ Find out what process is in place in your community for transition to kindergarten by chatting with your child's preschool teacher, visiting the school district's web site, or calling the district's central office for information. Informal contacts like friends, family, and neighbors who have been through the process are always good sources of information.
- \_\_\_ Take advantage of any developmental and health screenings available through the community's/district's kindergarten transition process.
- \_\_\_ To participate in a program that lets you keep an eye on your child's development, call Help Me Grow at 1-800-505-7000 to participate in their Ages & Stages Screening Program. Use this link - <http://www.ct.gov/oec/cwp/view.asp?a=4544&q=535732> to learn more about Help Me Grow and the benefits of developmental screening. (All Help Me Grow services are free and confidential.)
- \_\_\_ If you need before and/or after school care, look for it early – even the school year before kindergarten! Schools that have before and/or after school care fill up fast, so if you're interested, register or get on the waiting list early!

Other places to look for before or after school care:

- \_\_\_ [town parks and recreation department](#)
- \_\_\_ local YMCA
- \_\_\_ [2-1-1 Child Care](#)
- \_\_\_ [Help Me Grow](#)
- \_\_\_ Enjoy with your child as many fun learning opportunities at home as you can – like reading together, learning nursery rhymes and traditional songs, cooking together, celebrating family and religious traditions, etc.
- \_\_\_ Explore with your child as many of the fun learning opportunities available in your community as you can - like the [public libraries](#); [state parks, forests, and campgrounds](#); [children's museums](#); [local farmers' market](#), etc.
- \_\_\_ Establish or tweak your family's morning, mealtime, and bedtime routines to support your child's learning and development.
- \_\_\_ Increase the number of choices you offer your child – choices about clothing, activities, playmates, etc. A child who is making choices is a child who is thinking and becoming more independent.

## January-February

- \_\_\_ Continue all of the above.
- \_\_\_ Make sure that kindergarten registration is on your calendar.
- \_\_\_ Watch for free events for families of children transitioning to kindergarten that are promoted in the newspaper, on TV, and in flyers you may receive from your preschool or see at the public library.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete all medical requirements and associated paperwork for enrollment in kindergarten.

### April-July

- \_\_\_\_\_ If your child is in preschool, ask what formal opportunities may exist for your child's preschool and kindergarten teachers to meet and exchange information about your child before he/she starts kindergarten.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Find out what formal opportunities, like kindergarten open houses, may exist in your community to visit the school where your child will attend kindergarten to meet the principal and teacher, tour the school, and see the classroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If no such opportunities exist, call your child's prospective school and ask for a visit to meet the principal and teacher, tour the school, and see the classroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take pictures of important school people - the principal and teacher, of course - but maybe the custodian, the librarian, or the cafeteria staff too. Take pictures of the school, the office, the cafeteria, the playground, and the classroom. Make a **Hello Kindergarten! Scrapbook** with the pictures you took on your tour of the school, and look at the scrapbook and talk about kindergarten often in the days leading up to the first day.

### August

- \_\_\_\_\_ Look at and talk about your **Hello Kindergarten! Scrapbook** often in the days leading up to the first day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Talk with your child about differences between preschool and kindergarten and what a **typical day** will be like. Lots of information on these two topics can be found on this web site.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a game of practicing walking in line; sharing ideas in a group; working at a desk, etc. – things that may be expected in kindergarten classrooms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Go shopping with your child for his/her backpack and school supplies, maximizing your child's opportunities to make choices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Talk about the importance of being on time and going to school every day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Practice your mealtime, bedtime, and starting the day routines. Practice walking or driving to school during the time you would normally do those things once school starts.

### September **Hello Kindergarten!**