

Getting Ready for Kindergarten Timeline & 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 also 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 free program that lets you keep an eye on your child's development from one month to 5 ½ years, 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:
 - _____ city or town parks and recreation department
 - _____ local YMCA
 - _____ 2-1-1 Child Care
 - _____ Help Me Grow
- _____ Enjoy with your child as many of the **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 library, parks and recreation, museums, the family resource center, 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, on social media, and in flyers you may receive from your school or see at the public library.
- _____ Complete all medical requirements and associated paperwork for enrollment in kindergarten. Click [here](#), for more information.

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.
 - _____ If no such opportunities exist, or even if they do, consider creating an **"All About Me"** page or a **transition folder**. Ask your preschool teacher what information he/she can provide for the kindergarten teacher.
 - _____ 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 an **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

- _____ Finish your **"All About Me"** page and **transition folder**.
- _____ Look at and talk about your **Hello Kindergarten Scrapbook** often in the days leading up to the first day.
- _____ Talk about differences between preschool and kindergarten and what a **typical day** will be like.
- _____ Make a game of practicing walking in line; lining up to go outside, to the water fountain, or to the cafeteria; working at a desk, etc.

- _____ 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!](#)