



Special Education: Transition to Kindergarten

The Center for Exceptional
Families

Presented by



Who are We?

The Center for Exceptional Families

- We are Arkansas' Parent Training and Information Center
- We are a statewide organization with regional mentors
- We are funded by The U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), grants, and private donations.



Parent Training and Information(PTI) Centers

- Serve families of children from birth to age 26 with disabilities
- Help families and other agencies understand the benefits of IDEA and Section 504
- Provide a variety of services free of charge including individual support, workshops, publications, community events, social media connections, etc
- Work together with stakeholders to improve outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities



Meet our Team!

<https://thecenterforexceptionalfamilies.org/our-team/parent-mentors/>



Tips for Parents

- Visit the school ahead of time and walk around
- Show your child the drop off and pick up points
- Show your child the cafeteria, playground, office, classroom, restrooms, etc.
- Explain what happens in these new places.



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Routine is Important

- Practice the school routine two weeks prior to school (eating, sleeping, etc).
- Walk them to the bus stop and point out landmarks and explain the routine.
- Use a visual schedule if needed to teach the new routine!



Teach me about myself!



- Help me learn my:
- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Parent name or names (emergency contacts)

Support me at School

- Talk with my teacher about how I am doing
- Attend parent meetings at my new school
- Volunteer to help with school activities or join school organizations if possible



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Practice Kindergarten Routines

- Teach me to follow directions by giving me simple steps for chores
- Help me learn to share with other children and wait my turn
- Model how to ask for help in different situations
- Teach me what to do if someone takes something from me or hurts my feelings



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Documentation for School

Attend
Kindergarten
Registration Day
and Bring:



Birth Certificate

Social Security Card

Shot Records

Physical

Proof of residency

Any special documentation

If your child has special needs or services

Your child would qualify for an IEP/504 including the following information:

Special Ed services may include:

Speech, occupational, or physical therapy

Mental or behavior health services

Other services

At that meeting, a representative from the school district your child attends will be present

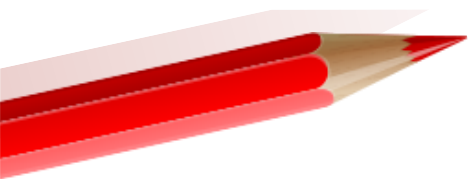
The team, including you, will determine, what, if any future evaluations or needs your child may have upon entering kindergarten

Changes in Services



Reminders:

- Services your child may have received in private therapy, early intervention, or preschool may not be the same in kindergarten.
- To qualify for services like speech, occupational, physical therapy, etc. the child must show adverse effects in school-related areas such as writing, communicating, gross motor, fine motor, walking, and other skills that hinder their progress in school.




Team Decisions

You are part of a TEAM!

- The information you share will help team members with decisions about your child's needs
- Sometimes a child makes significant progress and no longer needs services
- Sometimes a child may continue to need services



Transition Guidelines



The transition meeting is to ensure an orderly **transition** from **preschool to kindergarten**. The areas addressed will be:

Transfer of Records

Child Information

Timelines for activities

Parental awareness of programs and services available that are specific to your child.

Parental involvement and how the decision-making process works.

Information regarding your rights under IDEA, informed consent, what decisions the school proposes and rejects and your options.

Time Lines

Should the team decide further testing is needed, the school district will complete those evaluations, and contact you to review those results



When the evaluation meeting is held, the team will decide the most appropriate supports and services for your child



Those decisions should be in place before school starts unless the team decides other data needs to be collected.



Thank You!

- Contact us!
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