

GWINNETT



Getting Ready... on Our Way to School

Kindergarten Registration is May 5, 2016.

Begin registration online, available April 4, and then complete the process at your child's new school at this important event on May 5.

Who: Rising kindergartners— children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2016— and their parents or guardians.

What: Register for the 2016–17 school year.

When: Check the school website or call your school for registration times. For a list of phone numbers, go to “2016 Kindergarten Registration” on GCPS’ website under the Parent tab (www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us).

Where: Visit the school website to register online, beginning April 4, and then complete the registration process at your local school on May 5. If you're not sure which school your child will attend, call the Planning Department at 678-301-7085.

Why: So you and your child will be ready for the first day of school— Monday, August 8, 2016. (Look online for other important calendar dates for the 2016–17 school year.)

How: Come to your local school during registration hours with the important documents listed on the back of this brochure. Your child's registration will be delayed if you do not bring the needed paperwork. Allow plenty of time to fill out forms.



Bring your rising Kindergartner with you on May 5! The school will have activities, screening, and important information for your child, too.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

You have a very important role in your child's education. In fact, your child has been learning since birth and you've been teaching from the very start! Following are some suggestions for preparing your child for "big school" next fall:

- **Set aside a regular time to read with your child every day.** Studies show that regularly reading aloud helps improve comprehension and increases a child's vocabulary. He'll also learn that books are fun and will want to read himself. When reading (and re-reading) favorite books, ask your child to use the pictures to retell the story. Extend the story by asking "what would happen if..." Help your child get her own library card and check out books.
- **Use conversation to build your child's vocabulary.** Through everyday conversation, expose your child to new words and talk about what words mean. For an unfamiliar word, explain it in a child-friendly way. For a familiar word, introduce a less familiar word with the same meaning. Relating new words to your child's personal experience also supports vocabulary development.
- **Set expectations for appropriate school behavior.** Kindergartners love to move and enthusiastic learners like to share what they're learning. However, "big school" also means learning when to move and when to share. Make sure your child understands the importance of following classroom rules, and knows that you expect good behavior throughout the school day.
- **Look for opportunities to teach your child numbers and letters.** Make a game of it together. For example, count the people or dogs you see during a walk. Ask your child to find numbers or letters in signs. Help your child learn the letters of the alphabet in order and out of sequence. Use magnet letters or letters on cards to spell his name and other familiar words. Practice copying and writing letters.
- **Let your child help with chores,** such as matching socks, feeding pets, or setting the table. Let your child help with simple recipes in the kitchen or work in the yard.
- **Encourage activities that involve sharing,** turn-taking, listening, following directions, and taking part in conversations. Children playing and sharing with others builds important skills that will be used throughout the school day.
- **Help your child develop important observation and conversation skills.** During errands, talk about what you see and do at the post office, grocery store, or bank. Share family stories. Make the most of time on the road. Point out words and symbols on signs. Ask your child to find letters and numbers on billboards and license plates. Sing songs together. Keep favorite books in the car.
- **Play rhyming games, sing songs, share nursery rhymes, and enjoy rhyming and repeating books.** All of those help your child develop early literacy skills. Rhyming words help children recognize sounds and syllables, skills children need when they are learning to sound out new words.
- **Help your child make good choices** when selecting television programs. Limit the amount of TV she watches. Also, monitor screen time if your child uses a computer or other digital device. While educational programs and computer games provide important learning opportunities, they're no substitute for "face time" with family members and caregivers.
- **Encourage your kindergartner's natural love for learning** with praise. Recognize her curiosity and hard work.
- **Prepare your child for a full-day learning experience** away from home, especially if your child has not been part of a formal Pre-K program. Summer is a good time to help your child get used to a more structured, school-like schedule and spending time with other caregivers.
- **Encourage healthy habits,** such as eating nutritious foods, getting ample rest, having a regular bedtime, waking up on time, and being physically active.
- **Prepare your child to handle personal needs,** such as going to the bathroom without help, washing his hands, blowing his nose, feeding himself, tying his shoes, and buttoning and zipping his clothes. Until your child has mastered tying shoelaces, consider athletic shoes that slip on or have other fasteners for school days.
- **Encourage your child to share his thoughts** and feelings about starting "big school."



Research shows that when parents are involved in their children's education at home, their children do better in school. When parents are involved at school, their children's achievement improves and the schools they attend become even stronger. Look for more helpful **Be There** resources on the parent tab of the GCPS website.

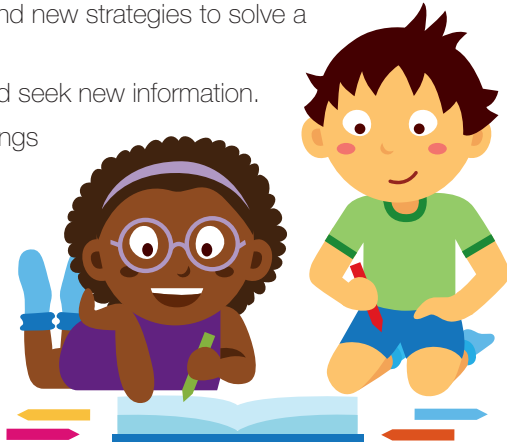


What to Expect When Your Child is a Kindergartner

Early childhood experts tell us that five-year-olds generally share some common characteristics and abilities. Of course, every child is different, so your new kindergartner may be demonstrating some traits and skills already or may have mastered some and not shown others. That's perfectly normal. Kindergarten is a time for lots of learning and your child's teacher is here to help! You can help your child practice these important skills so he is well prepared for kindergarten. As your child's first teacher, you are an important part of the teaching team!

New kindergartners often...

- Are eager and curious learners.
- Are physically active and participate in both structured and unstructured play, alone and with other children.
- Are interested in stories, books, rhymes, pictures, games, and songs.
- Enjoy imaginative play but can distinguish between real life and fantasy.
- Learn by doing, observing, imitating, investigating, examining, and exploring.
- Respond to praise and consistent rules.
- Are becoming more independent and want to make their own choices.
- Have an increasing attention span but need to change activities frequently.
- Like to talk and may enjoy being the center of attention.
- Develop friendships with peers and demonstrate empathy and understanding by trying to comfort and help others.
- Try both familiar and new strategies to solve a problem.
- Ask questions and seek new information.
- Can manage feelings and handle social situations more independently.



A child typically comes to school with these skills...

- Knows that the school day includes many activities, including listening time, play time, and work time.
- Demonstrates appropriate school behavior, including when to use an "inside voice", when to wait for a turn, and how to share with friends.
- Sits and actively listens for several minutes at a time.
- Identifies basic shapes (2D and 3D shapes).
- Knows some letters by sight, both uppercase and lowercase.
- Writes some letters, for instance those in her name, holding a pencil or crayon correctly.
- Recognizes some letter sounds.
- Understands letters form words and make sentences and sentences are separated by spaces in print. Knows that printed words read left to right and top to bottom.
- Follows multi-step directions.
- Talks in complete sentences in an understandable voice.
- Sorts objects by attributes such as color, shape, and size.
- Uses senses to learn about the world around her.
- Recognizes numbers and counts up to 20 in order.
- Uses materials to create original artwork to express himself.
- Follows a sequence of events, and knows the difference between past, present, and future.



Your child's teacher welcomes you as an active partner in your child's education.

Here are just a few ways to get involved:

- **Register for the Parent Portal** for safe and secure online access to key information about your child's academic career, 24/7. Go to www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us and click on the **Parents** tab at the top.
- **Stay informed on school and class happenings.** Read newsletters and reports that come home. Check the school website and the district website for updates.
- **Learn how you can help at home**, using resources posted to the district's Early Learning web page.
- **Attend parent-teacher conferences** to discuss your child's progress.
- **Know the adults who work with your child daily**, including teachers, principal, secretary, counselor, bus driver, and others.

What to Bring for Registration

- **Your child!** Schools offer activities and screenings on registration day. It's important that your child participate in this exciting day for your family.
- **An official document showing proof of birth date.** Examples include an original birth certificate or birth registration, an official state or federal form with date of birth, or passport. For a fee, parents can order a birth certificate for a child born in Georgia through the state's ROVER service. <http://gta.georgia.gov/rover>
- **Proof of residency in attendance zone.** The school requires proof of residency, which may be verified by presenting a current utility bill (excluding telephone bills) with one of the following documents: a non-contingent sales contract, current lease/rental agreement, most recent income tax return, current paycheck stub, current residential property tax statement or bill, current warranty or quitclaim deed, current home purchase agreement, or current homeowner's insurance policy. Documents presented for residency verification must include the same address as the accompanying utility bill. *An exception: A deed without an address is acceptable if accompanied by two utility bills (excluding telephone bills) with same address in the attendance zone.* A contingency contract is not acceptable. If you live with a friend or family member and need information about verifying your residency, call your local school.
- **A Georgia certificate of immunization.** By state law, a valid certificate of immunization (Form #3231) or a notarized Affidavit of Religious Exemption (available from school) is required for enrollment. The certificate of immunization must be completed by the health department or your private physician. A valid Form #3231 must be marked with either "Date of Expiration" or as "Complete for School Attendance."

(A certificate marked with a "Date of Expiration" expires on the date indicated. A current certificate must be submitted within 30 days of expiration.) A medical exemption, if applicable, should be noted on Form #3231 with a current date of expiration.
- **Evidence of Vision, Hearing, Dental, and Nutrition Screening obtained in the past year.** This information should be on a current Georgia Form #3300 (rev. 2013), available from the health department or your physician and dentist and dated within the last 12 months. Letters from appropriate healthcare professionals and out-of-state certificates are acceptable, if completed within the last 12 months and stapled to the state form.
- **A photo ID.** The person enrolling a student should present proper identification. This identification may include a driver's license, a state identification card, a passport, or other official photo identification, such as an ID card obtained through an official government agency or consulate.
- **Proof of custody/guardianship.** Proof of Guardianship is required for registration if the enrolling adult is not the birth parent. Contact the Gwinnett County Probate Court at 770-822-8250.
- **The child's social security number.** State law requires that schools ask for this number at the time of enrollment. Students will be enrolled, even if the number is not provided. However, parents will be asked to sign a waiver.
- **A copy of the Pre-K progress report** if your child has attended a state Pre-K program. You also can bring the final Pre-K assessment to your child's teacher when the school year begins. This information can serve as a benchmark of your child's skills and abilities.



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