



# Kindergarten, Here We Come!

Gaston County Schools



Transition to Kindergarten is a critical time in a child's development. Moving from Preschool to Kindergarten is more than simply changing locations or settings. Planning for a smooth transition can ease the stress and anxiety some children feel about starting "big school". This booklet can help you prepare yourself and your child for the move to Kindergarten!

*"A successful transition to Kindergarten is seen as a key component of school readiness."*  
(Pianta & Kraft-Sayre, 2003)



# What does Kindergarten transition mean for

## The child...

- The child is leaving a group of friends and teachers she has grown close to and must form new relationships. He will need to learn new routines and procedures and adapt to new expectations and experiences. For some children, this causes stress. For others, the transition is smooth.

## The family...

- For the family, there can be both feelings of pride and sadness. Families may worry that their child will have trouble adjusting. Parents hope their child's teacher will be loving and nurturing while teaching them well.

## The teacher...

- For the Kindergarten teacher, it means welcoming a new group of children and families and teaching them all the routines and expectations of Kindergarten. It also means hoping the children are well-prepared socially, emotionally, and academically for Kindergarten.



# How can we prepare children for this transition? Families can:

- Register children for Kindergarten online at [www.gaston.k12.nc.us](http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us) Register early; don't wait until the last minute. Have all the appropriate and required documents.
- At Home:
  - **READ** books about school and/or Kindergarten.
  - **TALK** about school and what happens in Kindergarten.
  - Establish healthy routines of getting enough sleep and eating nutritious meals.
  - Limit “screen” time to one hour per day of high quality programs or games/apps.
  - Visit the school for orientation or Open House.
  - Find out what supplies are needed for Kindergarten and begin gathering those.

# What will my child learn in Kindergarten?

Kindergarten is a very important year in a child's education. For some children, it is their first introduction to a school experience. Kindergarten tends to be a bit more formal than preschool, but the focus is still on establishing a strong foundation in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Here is a brief sample of what children learn in Kindergarten:

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Features of print (directionality, name upper- and lowercase letters)</li><li>• Print upper- and lowercase letters</li><li>• Ask and answer questions about texts</li><li>• Retell familiar stories</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to tell a story and provide information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Know number names and the counting sequence</li><li>• Count to tell the number of objects</li><li>• Compare numbers</li><li>• Describe and compare measurable attributes (long, short, heavy, light, etc.)</li><li>• Identify and describe shapes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the positions and motions of objects in the environment (under, above, below, beside, etc.)</li><li>• Understand change and observable patterns of weather</li><li>• Compare living and non-living things</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand change over time</li><li>• Use maps to locate places</li><li>• Explain how people adapt to weather, etc.</li><li>• Explain ways people use resources to meet basic needs and wants (shelter, food, clothing, etc.)</li><li>• Explain similarities in self and others.</li></ul>



# What resources are available to support learning at home?



“Young children enter kindergarten with a range of cognitive and social skills that appear to make a difference in their achievement during the kindergarten year. This seems to be of long-term importance; children who get off to a good start in kindergarten tend to maintain that advantage as they progress through school.” -Boethel, M. (2004).

Readiness: School, Family, and Community. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory

There are many excellent resources to help you prepare your child for Kindergarten. Of course, reading good books and having rich conversations with your child are most important. However, there are free apps and resources that give ways to engage with your child and build specific skills. These are:



**Vroom**                    <http://www.joinvroom.org/>

**Gaston County Public Library**   <http://gastonlibrary.org/>

**Read Charlotte**                    <https://readcharlotte.org/>

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library**   [www.cmlibrary.org/getset4k](http://www.cmlibrary.org/getset4k)

**Reading Rockets**                    [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

**Family Literacy Calendar**   <http://daybydaysc.org/june/june-6>





## Preparing for the First Day of School:

- Set the tone that learning is good, fun, and important.
- Go to bed early the night before.
- Make sure everything (clothes, shoes, supplies, etc.) is set out and ready.
- Label all personal belongings.
- Dress your child in clothes s/he can manage on his/her own.
- Place any money your child takes in an envelope labeled with your child's name, the teacher's name, the amount, and what it's for, or sign up for the K12 Payment Center, <http://www.k12paymentcenter.com/>
- Provide a special place at home for school items to be kept.
- Set aside a special time at the end of the day to talk about how it went!



# How can I be involved in my child's school?

Many schools have Parent-Teacher associations which parents can join. Project Appleseed, a national campaign for school improvement, identifies the following six ways to be involved in your child's school:

- **Parenting:** Establish a home environment that supports learning, with healthy routines and a positive attitude about school.
  - **Communicating:** Go to school-based events and communicate openly with the teacher.
  - **Volunteering:** Spend time in the classroom if you can. Offer to assist teacher with clerical tasks. Go on a field trip with the class.
  - **Learning at Home:** Support children's learning at home. Establish a place to do homework. Read nightly with your child.
  - **Decision-Making:** Join school organizations and offer your input and opinions.
  - **Collaborate with the Community:** Share resources within your community to help support the school. Organize book drives or other events to connect the school and community.
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[www.projectappleseed.org](http://www.projectappleseed.org)





# Getting Ready for School

My child can:

## Care for Personal Needs:

- \_ Independently use the toilet
- \_ Blow nose, cover sneeze
- \_ Wash hands
- \_ Dress self
- \_ Communicate personal needs
- \_ Recognize personal belongings

## Social:

- Listen to an adult and follow directions
- Cooperate with other children
- Sit for short periods of time
- Follow a rule

## Academic:

- Listen to a story
- Tell first and last name
- Name family members
- Answer questions asked by adult
- Retell familiar stories
- Use crayons, pencil, scissors
- Name a few letters and letter sounds
- Draw, scribble, or write name and/or letter strings



**Please remember that children develop at their own pace and may be working on these skills as they enter Kindergarten!**



# Children's Books About Going to School

*Billy and the Big New School* by Catherine and Laurence Anholt

*The Class* by Boni Ashburn

*Kindergarten Luck* by Louise Borden

*Monkey: Not Ready for Kindergarten* by Marc Brown

*Friends at School* by Rochelle Bunnett

*Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten* by Toni Buzzeo

*Do you want to be my Friend?* by Eric Carle

*Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson

*School Bus* by Donald Crews

*It's Hard to be Five* by Jamie Lee Curtis

*First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg

*K is for Kindergarten* by Erin Dealey

*Pout Pout Fish Goes to School* by Deborah Diesen

*Planet Kindergarten* by Sue Ganz-Schmitt

*Back to School Tortoise* by Lucy M George

*Chrysanthemum* by Keven Henkes

*Owen* by Kevin Henkes

*Sheila Rae, the Brave* by Kevin Henkes

*Bobbo Goes to School* by Shirley Hughes

*Pete the Cat Rocking in my School Shoes* by Eric Litwin

*First Day* by Dandi Daley Mackall

*Countdown to Kindergarten* by Alison McGhee

*The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn

*First Day, Hooray* by Nancy Poydar

*Ruby the Copy Cat* by Peggy Rathman

*Welcome to Kindergarten* by Anne Rockwell

*Tiptoe into Kindergarten* by Jacqueline Rogers

*The Twelve Days of Kindergarten* by Deborah Lee Rose

*Captain Freddy Counts Down to School* by

Elizabeth Shreeve

*Daddy's Back to School Shopping Adventure* by

Alan Sitomer

*Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*

by Joseph Slate

*I Love School!* by Philemon Sturges

*My Kindergarten* by Rosemary Wells