

Introduction: Entry Into Kindergarten

The reason to get a child ready for kindergarten is so he/she has a good start with “the big school.” Kindergarten may be different than it was when you were a child.

This time can be exciting and stressful for your whole family. Children ask where they will be going and what they will be doing. Parents have lots of questions too! Parents wonder if their child is ready for school. They wonder how their child will adjust to their teacher.

Every child who is five years old on or before December 1 may go to kindergarten, free of charge. Kindergarten is a great opportunity for learning but is voluntary.

While kindergarten begins in the fall, you begin to get ready for kindergarten in the spring. To prepare your child, you can partner with the adults or teachers who are in your child’s life now.

Benefits:

For the child:

- More confidence.
- Good contacts with other children and adults.
- A chance to learn new things.

For the parent:

- More confidence that your child will succeed in school.
- Sense of pride and involvement in your child’s school.
- Feel respected as a partner in your child’s education.
- Sense of pride with what you have taught your child already.

The following series of *Parent Guides* were designed to help you. You are your child’s first and most important teacher. You can help make your child’s start into kindergarten successful.



Parent Guides were adapted from Terrific Transitions by the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the National Head Start Association.