The transition to kindergarten is respected as a major milestone not only for the child, but for his or her family as well. The attitude towards school and learning that the child carries with them for life is often determined by this very first experience with school. A smooth transition to kindergarten can help make sure your child is successful in school.

The information provided below is designed to help you prepare your child for their school experience.

You bet, I'm ready for Kindergarten!

**Personal Needs:** Without help can they...

- ___ Attend to bathroom needs independently (very little to no bathroom "accidents")
- ___ Wash their hands
- ___ Put on and take off coat and backpack
- ___ Snap, button, zip, and buckle

**Social Skills:** Can they...

- ___ Listen to an adult & follow simple instructions
- ___ Cooperate safely with other children (does not use physical aggression)
- ___ Use words to express their needs
- ___ Follow simple two-step directions

**Intellectual Skills:** Do your children...

- ___ Sit and listen to a story
- ___ Hold a book upright and turn the pages
- ___ Know their first and last name
- ___ Tell and retell familiar stories
- ___ Know colors and basic 2D shapes
- ___ Counts 0-10

**Intellectual Skills (continued)**

- ___ Saying the ABC's
- ___ Holds scissors & pencil appropriately
- ___ Recognizes and writes first name
- ___ Recognizes the letters within their name

To help with a smooth transition into kindergarten you can follow these additional helpful ideas; provide opportunities to play with other children, teach your children socially acceptable ways to disagree without physical aggression, and encourage social values such as helpfulness, cooperation, sharing and concern for others.

**Additional Resources**

The Leap Frog Letter Factory and Alphablocks are a fun and engaging way to teach children the letters and the sounds of the alphabet.

Starfall.com and abcya.com have several free educational videos and games for teaching children the letters of the alphabet, and more!