

Some Things To Expect When Your Child Goes To Kindergarten

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School Papers

You will get a list of important school staff and procedures, including a calendar of school holidays, early dismissals, and parent-teacher conference dates. Always read any notices the school sends home carefully so that you are aware of any upcoming events or changes to information you already have.

Be sure to provide the school with your contact information and let the school know of any changes during the year. You should also identify at least two other people that the school can call if you cannot be reached during an emergency or if your child becomes sick at school.

Make a plan for times when your child has to come home earlier than expected. Your child's class may have a "phone tree" or other plan for unexpected early school closings. If your child is to go to another location, be sure to discuss the plan with your child, the teacher, bus driver or carpool driver, and the person who will be responsible for your child until you can get home. Never leave your child alone. Remember that emergencies can occur, and you want to have a good plan in place so that your child is safe.

Money and Personal Property in School

Students should only bring lunch, snack, or supply money to school. Your child should bring any other payments in an envelope that is clearly marked and give it to his or her teacher at the start of the day.

A list of needed school supplies is usually given to parents before school begins; these lists can often be found at local stores. Be sure to clearly mark your child's name on all personal items that are brought to school. Do not let your child bring unnecessary personal items to school. Return any unfamiliar items that are brought home as soon as possible.

Medicine

Medicines, including over-the-counter pain relievers, cannot be given at school without written parent permission. Medicines have to be in prescription bottles with doctor's directions clearly visible. Your school will probably have a specific permission form, and designated school staff must control all medications. Your child **cannot** keep any medicines in his or her possession at school.

Parents should inform the school office if their child is sick with a contagious disease. Some common infectious diseases are: measles, mumps, whooping cough, chicken pox, hepatitis, strep throat, scarlet fever, mononucleosis, influenza, pink eye, ringworm, and head lice.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are usually scheduled twice a year, near the times that report cards are issued. You will usually receive a notice to let you know of the dates and times available for meeting with your child's teacher. You can also contact your child's teacher at any time during the school year.

Teachers are usually working with children throughout the school day, so they may let you know how it is easiest to contact them at back-to-school night or in written notes home. Your school will also probably have some rules to make sure that children can learn without interruptions, so be sure to check with the office before trying to visit the classroom.

