

Kindergarten Countdown



Hillsborough County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preparing Students for Life



Time has a way of moving surprisingly quickly and even though your child may have just started Pre-K, before you know it, it will be time to begin thinking about Kindergarten! Below is a monthly checklist to guide you and your child as you begin the transition to Kindergarten!

DECEMBER

- Find your child's neighborhood school at <http://gis.sdhc.k12.fl.us/schoollocator/>
- Learn about school choice options <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/departments/95/hillsborough-choice-options/about/>
- Find out when the Kindergarten Countdown event will be held at your child's school <https://sdhc.k12.fl.us/kindergartencountdown/> or by calling the school.

JANUARY — FEBRUARY

- Know the procedures and required documents for enrolling your child in kindergarten <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/2276/bold-beginnings/kindergarten/kindergartenreg/>
- Attend Kindergarten Countdown!

MARCH — MAY

- Take the required paperwork to the school to complete the enrollment process.
Required documentation:
 - Birth certificate
 - Social security card (if available)
 - Florida Physical HRS form supplied by a doctor (must be within one year of school start date)
 - Florida Immunization Record on HRS hard card supplied by a doctor
 - Two forms of verification of address that prove where you live but are NOT your driver's license or state-issued ID card (some examples are a utility bill, lease, or a contract to purchase a home)

MAY — AUGUST

- Help your child develop independence by learning how to work belts, zippers, and buttons on clothing.
- Read books together about starting kindergarten.



TWO WEEKS BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

- Talk with your child about what will happen during the school day and about making new friends in kindergarten.
- Start to establish an evening "going-to-bed" routine and a morning "getting-ready-for-school" routine with your child.
- If your child will bring a lunch, practice opening and closing food storage containers and bags.

ONE WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

- Plan to attend a back to school event to learn more about your child's school, the kindergarten program, and to meet your child's teacher.
- Practice walking the route from the car or bus circle to the classroom with your child before school starts to develop confidence in new routines.
- Help your child lay out clothes and backpack for the following day.
- Talk with the school nurse and your child's teacher if your child has allergies or special needs.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- Allow plenty of time to get ready for school.
- If you are taking your child to school, leave early to allow time to find parking and navigate the school campus.
- Make sure your child and the child's teacher knows how the child will be going home.
Have fun and celebrate the first day of kindergarten with your child!

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Begin to establish good attendance habits by making sure your child attends kindergarten each and every day.
- Make backup plans to be sure your child can get to school on rainy days.
- Set aside time after school each day to talk with your child about the day.
- Read everything the school sends home.
- Learn how you can become involved in your child's education.