



The Schoenbaum Family Center *and*
Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy

Kindergarten Readiness and Transition

Family Discussion will begin at 12:00 pm
Use "Q & A" feature to post questions during session



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION AND HUMAN ECOLOGY



Outline for our discussion today

- Age eligibility
- “Ready” for kindergarten?
- Overview of common screening and enrollment processes
- What to do at home to support/prepare for kindergarten transition?
- Columbus City Schools registration and School Choice information
- Use ‘Q & A’ feature to ask questions
 - Chat will be moderated and questions will be followed up





Is my child eligible for kindergarten?

Each district determines child age-eligibility

- Some districts deem a child eligible who is 5 on or before September 30th of the school year
- Examples: Columbus, Dublin, Hilliard, Upper Arlington, Olentangy, Worthington
- Some deem a child eligible who is 5 on or before August 1st of the school year
- Examples: Gahanna, Pickerington, Bexley, Grandview
- Not age eligible? Parents may request assessment for a child to go early
 - May be a cost to assessment for family





Is my child “ready” for kindergarten?

- It is the schools’ job to be “ready” for your child if they are age-eligible!
 - There is a range for all development at age five
 - Gather resources here and online about appropriate expectations
- Families can support children by talking about the transition, visiting new school and new playground, going to new school events
 - Have a plan and talk with your child about it as an exciting adventure
 - Be cautious about letting your child see any anxiety you may have associated with kindergarten transition
- Families can support by becoming familiar with development and practicing skills with children in a fun way prior to kindergarten transition





To prepare for kindergarten, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready to participate in school. This list can serve as a guide as you and your child prepare for the exciting transition to kindergarten!

Can your child separate from primary caregiver without anxiety?

Use self-control?

- Keeping hands to self
- Sharing and taking turns
- Cooperating and playing with other children
- Using classroom supplies appropriately



Cooperate with adults and authority figures?

- Following directions
- Communicating needs effectively



Demonstrate self-help skills?

- Using the restroom independently
- Putting on and zipping own coat
- Tying shoes



Use classroom tools and toys efficiently?

- Cutting with scissors
- Holding and using a pencil, crayon or marker
- Building with blocks or Legos



Express self-awareness in a variety of ways?

- Knowing first and last name.
- Writing first name.
- Naming the letters in first name.
- Knowing name of primary caregiver(s)

What about skills and abilities?

Check the Ohio Department of Education's website for many resources for families on kindergarten transition

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Kindergarten/Kindergarten-Readiness-Checklist>

Your school district may also have resources and recommendations for successful kindergarten transition on their website

Many parents are surprised to find that schools emphasize autonomy, self-help and communication as hallmarks of kindergarten readiness rather than "academic" skills



Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

To do well in school, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready for school. This checklist is a guide. However, young children change so fast! If they cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple of weeks later.

Get your child ready for kindergarten. Ask yourself these questions:

Physical Skills

Does your child...

- ✓ enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing;
- ✓ draw and trace basic shapes;
- ✓ cut with scissors;
- ✓ bounce a ball; or ride a tricycle?



TIPS TO DEVELOP PHYSICAL SKILLS

- Materials that will help your child develop the motor skills needed to learn to write include crayons, markers, pencils, glue, scissors, paper and paint, puzzles, legos and blocks.
- Activities that will help your child's coordination include climbing, jumping, skipping, playing ball, using playground equipment and riding a tricycle.



Health and Safety Needs

Has your child...

- ✓ had required shots;
- ✓ had a dental exam;
- ✓ had a vision exam;
- ✓ learned own first and last name;
- ✓ learned first and last name of parent;
- ✓ learned to watch for cars when crossing the street;
- ✓ learned not to talk to strangers;
- ✓ developed a set routine for going to bed;
- ✓ learned to follow rules for safety?

TIPS TO DEVELOP HEALTH AND SAFETY NEEDS

- Help your child learn their full name, address and telephone number.
- Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street.
- Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help.
- Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

Personal Needs

Without your help, can your child:

- ✓ use the bathroom;
- ✓ wash hands;
- ✓ brush teeth;
- ✓ use tissue to blow nose;
- ✓ button and zip up shirts and pants;
- ✓ put on and take off coat;
- ✓ tie and/or Velcro shoes?



TIPS TO DEVELOP PERSONAL NEEDS

- Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth-brushing routines.
- Allow your child to dress themselves.
- Practice putting shoes on.
- Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.

Social and Emotional Skills

Does your child...

- ✓ play well with other children;
- ✓ separate from a parent without being upset;
- ✓ share with other children;
- ✓ care about the feelings of others;
- ✓ follow routines;
- ✓ put toys away when asked?



TIPS TO GROW SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS

- Give your child small chores to learn responsibility.
- Help your child learn to follow directions by giving simple steps.
- Encourage your child to share.
- Praise your child when he or she does something well.
- Provide guidance when your child is having difficulty.



Many schools and districts will have some type of screening at enrollment or beginning of year

- Results cannot prevent a child from enrolling if they are age-eligible
 - May provide school and family guidance if kindergarten enrollment is in question (for example, late birthday)
- Helps to guide kindergarten classroom placement and kindergarten instruction
- Often includes vision and hearing screenings
- May be unique to school or district or even teacher





All kindergarten children in Ohio public schools are screened with a standardized tool at beginning of school year

In Ohio public schools, this is the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

- The purpose of the KRA is to provide information to stakeholders at the local, regional and state levels about how well-prepared children are for kindergarten
- Districts have until November 1 to assess children
- Four areas assessed: Social Foundations, Mathematics, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development and Language and Literacy





Enrollment Process

Varies by district

Check district website to ensure that you are properly following procedures
Virtual enrollment and online meetings for 2021 school year

In general:

- Complete some part of registration online
- Make appointment online or at a central office or location
- Provide documentation at appointment
(birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization records)

Some districts may have some additional school choice which require
additional research/steps or visitation
(Upper Arlington, Columbus City Schools)





Helpful hints from veteran parents:

Consider before and after school care, transportation, and days off!

Kindergarten classes run for 6 hours at most

Great variance among districts

Columbus City Schools (9:00 am -3:30 pm)

Other districts are 2 ½ hours daily, some are every other day, some 2 ½ days full days

Before and after care and transportation may be a critical part of your decision

Many child care providers in suburbs run programs aligned to the local school schedule

School districts have frequent professional development days, early release days and weather closures

Consider winter break and spring break, holidays and professional development days and your family's work and personal schedule

Transportation time and feasibility

Third grade and under, an adult must meet the bus



What can families do at home to prepare with children?

Include child in conversations and discussion in age-appropriate way

Obtain children's kindergarten books (*Miss Bindergarten* book series, *The Night Before Kindergarten*, etc.)

Express excitement and anticipation for this new chapter

Use these tips to best support social emotional and literacy development before fall





Social foundations

Critical predictor of school success

Expectation that child can follow directions with several steps

- Establish routines
 - Mealtimes, bedtimes and daily school attendance
 - Helps child predict and expect daily routines and feel confident
 - Reading daily (future homework time?)
- Appropriate limits and expectations to support following directions
 - Adult sets limit and follows through if limit is not met (clean up?)
 - Supporting child through frustration and conflict negotiation
 - Games with rules
- Encourage autonomy and independence
 - Toileting, lunchboxes,
 - Manageable coats and clothing, shoes



Language and literacy

- Foundation of other “academic” success
- Read daily!
- Good indicator of standardized test scores in third grade is scores on kindergarten entry screener (KRA)
 - Let’s examine phonological awareness, vocabulary and print awareness





Language and Literacy at Home

Phonological awareness

Individual's awareness of the phonological structure, or sound structure, of words
Reliable predictor of later reading skills

One of the most important preK skill to practice

- Read daily!
- Listening to language, breaking it apart and putting it back together
- Any activity you can do in the car with your child or while driving with child





Phonological Awareness

(Lindsay Knoblauch, M.Ed., CCC-SL, superduperinc.com)

- Recognizing when words rhyme (e.g., “Do ‘cat’ and ‘shoe’ rhyme?”) and coming up with a word that rhymes (e.g., “What rhymes with ‘key’?”)
- Segmentation of words in sentences (e.g., “Clap for each word you hear in the sentence ‘The dog is furry.’”)
- Blending syllables (e.g., “I am going to say parts of a word. Tell me what the word is. ‘Pan-da.’”)
- Segmentation of syllables (e.g., “Clap for each syllable you hear in the word ‘refrigerator.’”)
- Deletion of syllables (e.g., “Say the word ‘strawberry.’ Now say it without saying ‘straw.’”)





Language and Literacy

Vocabulary

Expose your child to new and varied words through reading and conversation

- Establish a habit of reading daily
- Shared or dialogic reading has the most impact
 - Explicitly point out words, discuss plot, guess what will happen, etc.
- Explicitly point out new words in books and conversation
- Expand upon your child's conversation and invite them to continue
 - "Look! A dog!"
 - "I see that dog! He's has a light blue leash."
- Have long conversations with your child
 - "Look! A dog!"
 - "I see that dog! Why do you think his owner put a sweater on him?"
 - Try to improve the number of times you go back and forth
- All of the above should be fun and enjoyable!



Language and Literacy Print Awareness

- Understanding how print works (left to right, capital and lower case letters, how to handle a book)
- Establish a habit of reading daily
 - Incorporate print referencing into shared reading
 - Point out letters, author and illustrators' names, where you are starting to read, "this word is underlined so it's loud!", etc.
- Explicitly point out environmental print
 - Show menus, calendars, signs, explain how you are using them
 - Explain differences in charts, tables of content or indexes in books



Language and Literacy

Print Awareness

- Write your child's name often in fun and authentic ways
 - Cards, name tags, responsibility charts
- Use writing in daily routines at home
 - Shopping lists, notes, recipes, signs





Questions? Continue with CCS school choice information





Columbus City Schools Enrollment

ENROLLMENT

- Enrollment Information
 - Central Enrollment
 - Necessary Documents
 - Vaccine Requirements
 - Pre-K-12 SpeedyPass Online Registration
 - Change of Address Process
 - FAQ's
 - Important Dates
- School Choice/Lottery
 - Home Education
 - Find Your School

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: VIRTUAL ENROLLMENTS

Due to Social Distancing, all enrollments are currently being conducted virtually. Families who need to complete enrollment, must complete the Online Registration and schedule an appointment. Families will receive an email prior to their appointment with instructions and an invitation to join a virtual enrollment meeting online. Please reply to the email at least one hour prior to your appointment with all of the required enrollment documents.

Virtual Enrollment Process 10.20.20

Veillez cliquer ici pour la traduction de la version française

Preclone aqui para la traducción en Espanol del Video de inscripcion

For questions regarding Enrollment, please email centralenrollment@columbus.k12.oh.us

CCS enrollment questions and additional resources:

Centralenrollment@columbus.k12.oh.us

Enrollment Factline, Barbara Reed; 614-221-3228

VIRTUAL SCHOOL CHOICE FAIRS



New this year, **Columbus City Schools** will hold its **2021 School Choice Fairs** virtually in January and February. Families can log in online and talk directly with staff from each of our schools to learn more about what they have to offer.

The **Middle School and High School Choice Fair** will be held virtually on **Wednesday, January 17**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

The **Elementary School Choice Fair** will be held virtually on **Wednesday, February 27**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Each school will have a video highlighting the opportunities available at their school on the CCS website prior to the day of the Fairs. Parents are encouraged to watch the videos to narrow down their selections.

There is no need to register ahead of time. Families will be able to log in at the scheduled time to talk live via Zoom with the principal and school staff. Zoom links, video presentations, and school profiles will be available on the CCS website at ccsoh.us/schoolchoice.



MIDDLE SCHOOL and HIGH SCHOOL VIRTUAL SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VIRTUAL SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR

Wednesday, February 17

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

LOTTERY APPLICATIONS

The lottery application period for high school and middle school students opened on **January 6** and closes on **February 26, 2021**.

The lottery application period for elementary school students opens on **February 1** and closes on **March 31, 2021**.

Pre-K enrollment appointments will begin on **April 1, 2021**.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ► ccsoh.us/schoolchoice

Columbus City Schools Kindergarten Enrollment Process

Step 1**

**If you want your child to attend your assigned school, you can skip this step! To learn your child's assigned school, go to 'enrollment' on CCS website and use the School Assignment Finder tool

- ✓ Look up the factsheets about CCS elementary schools and virtual tours available on CCS website under school choice fairs tab
- ✓ Go to the virtual elementary school fair on 2/27/21 to meet school staff and ask questions

Step 2

- ✓ Beginning February 1st, complete the ~~SpeedyPass~~ enrollment on the [CCS website](#). After you complete the ~~speedypass~~, you will be prompted to schedule an online appointment at the central enrollment office.

Families will receive an email prior to their appointment with instructions and an invitation to join a virtual enrollment meeting online. Please reply to the email at least one hour prior to your appointment with all of the required enrollment documents.

Step 3

- ✓ Attend your appointment
Your child is not enrolled until you attend this appointment!
- ✓ Ensure all documents are uploaded/emailed prior to appointment
 - Parent photo ID
 - Child's birth certificate
 - Address verification
 - Child immunization record
 - Custody/legal paperwork, if applicable

Step 4

- ✓ If you want your child to attend your assigned school, you are done!
- ✓ If you want to enter the school lottery, fill out an application online via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
 - Applications are available starting 2/1/21
 - Applications are due by 3/31/21

** Only list the schools that you want. You do not have to list three choices! **

Step 5

- ✓ In April, a phone call will prompt you that your lottery results are available to be viewed on the portal. You will receive a phone call prompt to check your parent portal, or you can check the portal as often as you'd like
- ✓ If you receive an offer for a lottery school, you must accept the offer for placement at a school within two days or lose the offer

Step 6

Secure child care before and after school care, if needed

DONE!

Questions?
Contact Barb Reed on the CCS
Fastline : 614-221-3228

SCHOOL CHOICE LOTTERY PROGRAM

Middle School Communities

<u>Northwest (1)</u>	<u>Northeast (2)</u>	<u>East (3)</u>	<u>South (4)</u>	<u>West (5)</u>	<u>Center City (6)</u>
Ridgeview Dominion	Medina Mifflin Woodward Park Linden McKinley 7-12	Johnson Park Sherwood Yorktown	Buckeye South 7-12	Hilltonia Starling K-8 Wedgewood Westmoor	Champion

Middle School City Wide 100% Alternatives**

Africentric Early College K-6 Cols Prep School for Girls Indianola Informal K-8	Arts Impact Cols Prep School for Boys World Language Middle School*
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Elementary School Communities

School assignment based on home address, not other placement.

<u>Northwest (1)</u>	<u>Northeast (2)</u>	<u>East (3)</u>	<u>South (4)</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>Center City (6)</u>
Clinton Colerain Como Cranbrook Gables Hubbard** Indian Springs Oakland Park Salem <u>Weinland Park</u> Winterset	Alpine K-3 Avalon K-3 Cassady Devonshire East Columbus East Linden Forest Park Hamilton K-6 Huy Innis Linden K-6 Maize North Linden Northgate 4-5 Northtowne Parkmoor South Mifflin K-6 Valley Forge Windsor K-6	Berwick K-8 Broadleigh Easthaven Fairmoor Leawood Liberty Oakmont Olde Orchard Scottwood Shady Lane Woodcrest	Cedarwood Alt. Lincoln Park K-6 Moler K-6 Parsons Southwood K-6 Stewart Alt. Watkins	Avondale Binns Burroughs Eakin Georgian Heights Highland Lindbergh Starling K-8 Sullivant Valleyview West Broad West Mound Westgate	Eastgate** Fairwood K-6** Livingston K-6** Ohio** Siebert K-6** Trevitt

City Wide 100% Lottery Elementary Schools**

Africentric Early College K-8 Indianola - Informal K-8 :	Ecole Kenwood – French Immersion K-5* Columbus Spanish Immersion K-5* Duxberry Park Arts Impact
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Once you have determined your community, please refer to the chart below to determine the regional alternative schools for which you are eligible to apply.

<u>Northwest</u>	<u>Northeast (2)</u>	<u>East (3)</u>	<u>South (4)</u>	<u>West (5)</u>	<u>Center City (6)</u>
Devonshire Hamilton Stem K-6 Oakland Park Windsor Stem K-6	Cassady Devonshire Oakland Park Olde Orchard Windsor Stem K-6	Berwick K-8 Cedarwood Fairwood K-6 Olde Orchard Stewart K-6 Windsor Stem K-6	Berwick K-8 Cedarwood Fairwood K-6 Stewart K-6 Westgate	Cedarwood Fairwood K-6 Georgian Heights Stewart K-6 Westgate	Devonshire Fairwood K-6 Hamilton Stem K-6 Stewart K-6 Windsor Stem K-6 Westgate

Transportation: Transportation is provided if:

- The school is more than 2 miles from child's home address, and The school is in the student's community, or
- The school is a city wide alternative or a regional alternative.

*Classes taught in foreign language, must interview

**City Wide Transportation