

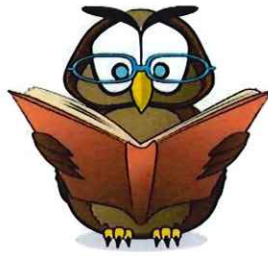


Tips to Promote Success in Kindergarten

- Enjoy and encourage conversations with your child.
- Help him learn to recognize his own written name.
- Encourage your child to use blunt-tipped scissors, crayons, and put together simple jigsaw puzzles.
- Read and tell stories to your child. Have her retell the story.
- Sing alphabet songs and read alphabet books.
- Provide opportunities for your child to count and play counting games.
- Encourage your child to work with others and use words to solve problems.
- Make sure your child runs, jumps, plays outdoors, and does other activities that help develop large muscles.
- Encourage your child to sort and classify things.
- **Share your love of learning with your child.**

For more information, please contact the APS Office of Early Childhood
703-228-8632 / www.apsva.us.

Preparing for the Big Day!



The Office of Early Childhood in conjunction with the Office of Library Services has produced this list of books to help your child prepare for starting Kindergarten.

Title	Author
Max goes to school/Max va a las escuela	Adria Klein
Eliza's Kindergarten surprise	Alice McGinty
Countdown to Kindergarten	Allison McGhee
Kindergarten Countdown	Anna Jane Hays
Welcome to Kindergarten	Anne Rockwell
Kindergarten Diary	Antoinette Portis
The Kissing Hand	Audrey Penn
Un beso en mi mano (The Kissing hand)	Audrey Penn
Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?	Audrey Vernick
Junie B. Jones series	Barbara Park
Ramona la chinche (Ramona the Pest)	Beverly Cleary
Polka-dot Fixes Kindergarten	Catherine Urdahl
One Happy Classroom	Charnan Simon
Twelve Days of Kindergarten: A Counting Book	Deborah Lee Rose
The Pirate of Kindergarten	George E Lyon
Harry and Tuck	Holly Keller
Mom, It's My First Day of Kindergarten	Hyewon Yum
Kindergarten Cat	J. Patrick Lewis
Kindergarten ABC	Jacqueline Rogers
A Place Called Kindergarten	Jessica Harper
Pirates and Princesses	Jill Kagman
Panda Kindergarten	Joanne Ryder
Starting School	Johanna Hurwitz
Miss Bindergarten Has a Wild Day in Kindergarten	Joseph Slate
Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the Last Day of Kindergarten	Joseph Slate
Miss Bindergarten Plans a Circus with Kindergarten	Joseph Slate
Miss Bindergarten Stays Home from Kindergarten	Joseph Slate
Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten	Joseph Slate
Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten	Joseph Slate
Little Bear Goes to Kindergarten	Jutta Langreuter
Who Will Go to School Today?	Karl Ruhmann

Get Ready for Pre-K and Kindergarten!

Check out our [video presentations](#) to learn about early childhood programs, registering for Kindergarten, and elementary option schools.



Welcome to Kindergarten! - Available online on Monday, Jan. 30

www.apsva.us/kindergarten

- How to prepare for Kindergarten and register online or in person
- Option schools available to all students and how to apply
- Extended Day Program and how to register for fall 2023

**Students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or by September 30, 2023*

Learn About Pre-Kindergarten - Available online on Thursday, Feb. 2

www.apsva.us/earlychildhood

Families of age-eligible students interested in Pre-K in the fall of 2023 will learn about the following programs and how to apply:

- Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- Community Peer Program (CPP)
- Montessori
- Head Start (Northern Virginia Family Services)

Learn About the Montessori Program - Available online on Tuesday, Feb. 7

www.apsva.us/earlychildhood

Learn about the primary (ages 3 to 6) and elementary (ages 6 to 12) Montessori programs, our multi-age approach to learning, and the application process.



Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

You are your child's first and most important teacher. As your child's first year of elementary school approaches there are many skills that you can foster and teach to smooth the transition to kindergarten.

- **Read to your child every day.** Reading aloud to your child builds understanding of language, vocabulary and conceptual knowledge which are important for success in school.
- **Talk to your child** about his/her environment and activities. Your child should know the names of common objects and be able to talk with you about them.
- **Listen to your child.** Your child should be able to express thoughts clearly and be able to retell an event in the proper sequence.
- **Sing songs** and recite nursery rhymes together.
- **Keep a scrapbook.** Let your child collect pictures and tokens of activities you have experienced together. Write about the activity as your child dictates to you. Read it together.
- **Allow your child to use scissors** on a variety of materials. Watch your child cut showing the proper way to hold the scissors.
- **Show your child that learning is fun** by sharing activities such as
 - arranging household items,
 - preparing snacks and meals,
 - growing plants and
 - playing games with words, numbers and colors.
- **Encourage helpful habits** by having your child
 - put things away,
 - follow directions,
 - do simple chores,
 - work and play cooperatively with peers,
 - stick to a schedule and
 - dress himself.
- **Discuss any fears** your child may have about starting school. Having some fears is natural but reassure your child that everything will be fine. Share them with your child's teacher if they persist.

What to Expect in the Kindergarten Program

Arlington Public Schools (APS) offers a high quality, developmentally appropriate kindergarten program. This full-day program is designed to meet the emotional, social, physical, and academic needs of children and is based on the Virginia State Standards, APS curriculum, and APS Best Practices. The following describes what parents and the community may expect from the APS Kindergarten Program.



Teachers and Students

- Classrooms with a certified teacher and paraprofessional who receive on-going professional development
- Positive, language rich interactions among the children and staff
- Experiences that support the development of community within the classroom

Classroom Curriculum

- A balance of whole group, small group, and individual lessons and activities designed to meet the interests and needs of the children
- Instruction in emergent literacy (concept of print, phonology, letters-sounds), mathematics, social studies, science, and health
- Instruction in music, physical education, art, and library from a specialist
- Experiences, materials, conversation, and activities that support language and vocabulary development
- Experiences for children to discover how mathematical concepts relate to other concepts (measuring and weighing)
- Opportunities for children to work with letters, songs, rhymes, and stories
- Opportunities for shared, guided, and independent reading and writing
- Teachers read aloud from a variety of texts on a daily basis
- Opportunities for children to count, classify, sequence, sort, match, and experiment
- Opportunities to answer open-ended questions and extend thinking
- Experiences that develop sensory and motor skills (fine and gross)
- Recess

Communication

- Consistent communication between the school, the classroom, and the home

Classroom Environment

- Print rich, well equipped classrooms designed to support inquiry and investigation
- Respect for the culture, language, ethnicity, family, and ability of every child
- Safe environment