

K	I	N	D	E	R	G	A	R	T	E	N
T	R	A	N	S	I	T	I	O	N	★	★
T	O	O	L	K	I	T	★	★	★	★	★

An Implementation Guide for Educators



Language
Development



Approaches
to Learning



Social and Emotional
Development



Cognitive
Development



Physical
Development



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“In every task the most important thing is the beginning... especially when you deal with anything young and tender.”

–Plato

A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

...St. Clair County's School Readiness Advisory Committee who shared the work of developing this transition plan.

All the partners want children to be successful in kindergarten and the remaining school years. This booklet was created to help children and their family's transition into kindergarten smoothly and successfully.

- School Readiness Advisory Committee Members
- Algonac Child Care Center
- Algonac Community Schools
- Blue Water Community Action
- Blue Water YMCA
- Capac Community Schools
- Creative Tots, St. Clair
- East China School District
- Great Start to Quality, Eastern Region
- Immanuel Lutheran, St. Clair
- Marysville Public Schools
- Parents
- Port Huron Area School District
- St. Clair County Early On
- St. Clair County Great Start Collaborative
- St. Clair County Great Start Home Visiting
- St. Clair County Great Start Readiness Program
- St. Clair County RESA

Adapted with permission from Macomb Intermediate School District's *Making Macomb Transitions*

Version: September 2016



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KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION ★ ★



SECTION 1 OVERVIEW & INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW & INTRODUCTION

The St. Clair County School Readiness Advisory Committee is a group of parents, educators, child care providers and community members coming together to create a common understanding of school readiness for St. Clair County.

The committee began meeting in 2014 with the goal of developing a list of characteristics related to school readiness. This school readiness document was completed in 2015. The group's most recent project is the development of this countywide kindergarten transition booklet to be used by preschool and elementary schools to support their families.

Transitions are an important piece to a child's success in school. Effective transitions should be well-thought-out, planned locally and ensure the right people are involved in the planning and execution of the transition. Each school district and building has unique characteristics including family culture, income levels and available resources. Each of these characteristics should play an important role in preparing an effective transition plan.

Included in this booklet is an outline for creating a transition plan, including resources and templates to assist in preparing an effective plan for all incoming families.

The steps to create and implement a strong transition plan are:

Step 1: Establish a transition team

Step 2: Create a timeline and plan appropriate activities

Step 3: Implement

Step 4: Evaluate and revise

[School readiness matters in St. Clair County.](#)

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION



SECTION 2 TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

TRANSITION CONNECTIONS

The transition to kindergarten is a process among partners rather than an event happening to a child.

Families and children are not the only ones transitioning to kindergarten. It is important for all participants to collaborate in making a successful and smooth transition. Partners include the school, family, children and community.

School to Children

- To increase children's familiarity with the kindergarten setting.
- To provide experiences for children to build positive relationships with staff and with peers who are transitioning with them into kindergarten.

School to Family

- To increase collaboration between families and staff and promote parent involvement within the school.
- To build an appropriate and culturally relevant partnership between family and school which supports positive school outcomes.

School to School/Community

- To promote continuity within the transition process and facilitate cohesion in services offered to children.
- To coordinate and integrate effective communication between schools and community regarding the transition plan.
- To collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services and civic participation.

K	I	N	D	E	R	G	A	R	T	E	N
T	R	A	N	S	I	T	I	O	N	★	★



SECTION 3 TRANSITION TEAMS

TRANSITION TEAMS

The vision, enthusiasm, commitment, and leadership skills of the people who fill the roles of the leadership team are critical to the success of the transition planning process.

Transition teams are an important part to a successful transition plan within a district and individual buildings. The transition team can include:

- Kindergarten teachers
- School counselor
- Preschool representatives
- Health services
- Special education teachers
- Principal
- Early Childhood Special Education representatives
- Parent Educators
- Head Start representatives
- Special education service providers
- Community agency representatives
- Parents of current kindergarten students
- Parents of incoming kindergarten students
- School district central office administrators
- English as a Second Language teachers
- Community librarian

This team can be created at the district and/or school level. When creating the team, consider who would make a strong addition to the transition team for your district/building and be sure to invite the individuals to each meeting.

The team is responsible for creating a timeline, planning activities, and implementing the transition plan.

A transition needs assessment can be done using the free Ready Schools Assessment through High/Scope at www.readyschoolassessment.org.

Kindergarten Transition Team

Establishing a transition planning team:

Team Leader:		
Team Members:		
Name	Title/School	Email
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
Goals School to School: School to Community: School to Family:		
Meeting dates/times:		
Notes:		

POSSIBLE TEAM MEMBERS:

- Kindergarten teachers
- School Counselor
- Preschool representatives
- Childcare representatives
- Health Services
- Special education teachers
- Principal
- Parent Educators
- Early Childhood Special Education representatives
- Head Start representatives
- Early On
- Community agency representatives
- Parents of current kindergarten students
- Parents of incoming kindergarten students
- School district central office administrator

Goal Setting Planning Sheet

District:	
Building:	
Transition Coordinator:	
Team Members:	
Meeting dates:	
Short Term	
Long Term	
Barriers	Ways to overcome barriers
Other notes:	

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION



SECTION 4 TRANSITION TIMELINE

TRANSITION TIMELINE

The transition timeline begins with the four-year-old preschool year through the transition into kindergarten.

Schools and programs can adapt the timeline and choose the most effective strategies to assist families.

The transition process should be seen as including both preschool children and children entering kindergarten. The timeline reflects this by including activities that overlap year to year. All connections need to be included in the transition process: families, children, teachers and the community.

A draft timeline is included to assist any district/building in choosing the most effective strategies to assist families in a smooth transition. Remember that this is an open-ended list and is meant to simply be a guide. Each district/program is encouraged to adapt, add, and create new activities to best fit the families and community.

Use this chart beginning in the fall of the four-year-old preschool year and continue through the kindergarten transition.

School to Children Connection	School to Family Connection	School to School/Community Connection
JUNE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send welcome letter and photo introducing self to incoming kindergarten students. • Schedule play groups at local playground with incoming kindergartners. • Conduct daytime summer learning opportunities/ sessions for incoming kindergarten students and parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide parents with a list of books about kindergarten transition. • Identify languages of families entering kindergarten and recruit volunteers to help with translation. • Send out welcome packet to families in their language. Include School Age • Care (SAC) information. • Distribute a calendar of special dates for families. • Ask parents about preferred contact methods, i.e. email, phone, text, fax. • Contact each family by welcome letter made by teacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass on CA60s, placement cards, screening results and assessments to kindergarten teachers. • Create and distribute next year's class lists to kindergarten teachers. • Arrange for community members to hold day/evening playground dates for incoming kindergarten students during the summer.
JULY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite future kindergarteners to Popsicles on the Playground day/ evening event. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for community members to hold day/evening playground dates for incoming kindergarten students during the summer.
AUGUST		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send home a letter introducing teacher and staff to each student. Include photo. • Arrange for a home visit and, with parental permission, take a photo of child to use in classroom. • Schedule play groups at local playground with incoming kindergartners. • Invite future kindergarteners to Popsicles on the Playground day/ evening event. • Conduct daytime summer learning opportunities/sessions for incoming kindergarten students and parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact each family by welcome letter made by teacher. • Schedule home visits before and after children enter kindergarten. • Learn names of families before school starts. • Create a welcome area outside classroom for families and post upcoming events, daily schedule, wish list and mailbox for notes from parents. • Recruit volunteer/ Family Ambassador to welcome new families. • Host a 'Back to School' night Ice Cream Social for incoming kindergarteners. • Implement a 'staggered start': pairs of children and parents attend the first day of school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for community members to hold day/evening playground dates for incoming kindergarten students during the summer.

SECTION 4 TRANSITION TIMELINE

School to Children Connection	School to Family Connection	School to School/Community Connection
SEPTEMBER		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define a personal space in classroom for children's belongings. Develop directory of student's names and phone numbers for families to encourage peer connections outside of school (with parental permission). Implement a phase in for incoming kindergarteners (divide students into groups) to give teachers more individual time with students over the first few days of school. Have preschool teacher greet kindergarten students at their new school on their first day. Set up 'buddy system' with older student to show kindergartener around school/eat lunch together/read together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote parent involvement from beginning of preschool, i.e. PTA/PTO, Parent Advisory Council (PAC), classroom volunteer. Help families determine their home school. Hold a scavenger hunt the first day of school for children and parents. Display photos of families in classroom (with parental permission). Promote involvement/volunteering to parents at the elementary school. Have PTO/PTA invite current and future families to fall evening event. Have local paper do a community piece on first day of preschool. Invite kindergarten teachers to join the preschool staff and members of the transition team to plan joint preschool to kindergarten transition activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have preschool teachers greet kindergarten students on their first day at Elementary school. Hold a coffee and Kleenex parent session the first day of kindergarten hosted by either the principal or PTO/PTA. Hold a curriculum night to inform parents of what happens in school and how they can help their child succeed in school. Invite parents into the school not as "guests" but as SCHOOL/COMMUNITY MEMBERS. Invite PTA/PTO members to reach out to new parents with phone calls and invitations. Possibly spend part of the first meeting on the topic of transition at all grade levels. Schedule preschool teachers to read to kindergarten students.
OCTOBER		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up vision and hearing screening through Health Department to take place during school day.
NOVEMBER		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a 15-minute video with current students on what it is like to be in kindergarten. Share with the preschool students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey all parents, including parents of special needs children, to find out their opinion on the transition process. Include suggestions for improvement. 	
DECEMBER		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a 15-minute video with current students on what it is like to be in kindergarten. Share with the preschool students. 		
JANUARY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop stories about kindergarten and the "big school." Allow students to talk about fears, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a survey asking parents what they would like to know about kindergarten. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a resource fair for families highlighting community services that are available for young children and families. Advertise kindergarten information night.

School to Children Connection	School to Family Connection	School to School/Community Connection
FEBRUARY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite current kindergarten students to share information about kindergarten. • Show video to preschoolers that was made in November/December by Kindergarten students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute a calendar that lists what parents can do to help with transition. • Hold a presentation for parents about kindergarten expectations and responsibilities. Answer their questions from survey including translation and dissemination of transition materials such as registration guide lines, brochures, information on specific school s, health and nutrition and calendar listing family transition activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise kindergarten information night. • Host kindergarten information meetings at local churches and businesses a few weeks prior to Kindergarten registration. • Distribute informational brochures, flyers and home activity calendars to families at community events as well as through pediatrician offices, laundromats, supermarkets, libraries, agencies, e.g. Social Services, community parks and recreation, local churches. • Host a kindergarten orientation day for families to familiarize themselves with what the district has to offer. Include information on busing, food services, special classes, support staff, health department, Great Start Parent Coalition and more. • Host a meeting for parents about kindergarten program, curriculum, expectations for parents and students, volunteering, schedule of the day, assessment and more. Review and pass out registration packet. • Include in the registration packet a census form where families list names and birth dates of children in the household under the age of five. • Arrange for community wide health screening.
MARCH		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite kindergarten teacher to share kindergarten happenings with preschoolers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect families with other families who have already made the transition. • Build a classroom or school library collection of kindergarten transition books and make them available on a circulation basis to families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule a visit for preschoolers to kindergarten classrooms to listen to kindergarteners read.

SECTION 4 TRANSITION TIMELINE

School to Children Connection	School to Family Connection	School to School/Community Connection
APRIL		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn dramatic area into kindergarten classroom borrowing materials from Kindergarten classroom to enhance play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite families to visit kindergarten classrooms, tour the building and meet staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a 'joint' art show displaying preschool and kindergarten work for families. • Host an Annual Realtor Open House regarding district programs, policies, events and points of pride.
MAY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer preschooler's letter with a letter from the kindergarten teacher welcoming them to kindergarten. • Create individualized "Learn about Kindergarten" bags filled with learning materials for each incoming kindergarten student to be used at home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask parents to provide information about children before kindergarten begins i.e., fears, allergies, strengths, weaknesses. • Provide families with Summer Fun Guide • Talk with parents about practicing new routines for bedtime i.e., waking up, dressing, eating breakfast, completing homework. • Invite incoming kindergarteners and their families to elementary school end of year social events. • Hold a special event before the school year begins welcoming incoming kindergarten children and families. A light supper, activities for children/ families to participate in together, opportunities to meet teacher/ principal! Visit classrooms are suggestions. Establish partnership between school and family before school starts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for a school bus to visit the preschool so students can practice getting on and off the bus and have the driver review the rules. • Offer screening assessments to all children ages 3- 5 within the community. • Share concerns about individual preschool students with kindergarten teacher and/or principal. • Schedule meeting with preschool and kindergarten teachers to share end-of-the year assessments and evaluation information.
ONGOING		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Read stories about kindergarten to students and regularly rotate books on transition in the reading corner. • -Implement a Parent Reading Center. Include books on kindergarten transition and develop a circulation system. • -Invite incoming kindergarten students to elementary school assemblies, functions and all kindergarten events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Invite school families to elementary school events. • - Discuss with families the importance of their children developing basic self-help skills such as hand washing, toileting, zipping buttoning coat, walking into classroom. • - Create learning kits parents can check-out to use at home with their children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster interschool collaboration by inviting kindergarten teachers and preschool staff to work together on joint programs and classroom practices. Visit each other's classrooms. • -Plan and hold joint professional development activities among preschool and kindergarten staff. • -Seek community agency support and investment of transition goals and activities.

School to Children Connection	School to Family Connection	School to School/Community Connection
ONGOING, CONT'D		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather preschool and kindergarten students for a joint storyteller assembly. • Schedule preschool story hour in kindergarten classroom. • Exchange stories/pictures created by kindergarten students with preschoolers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post the district and school improvement plan, meeting minutes and agendas (i.e. school committee, school council, PTA/PTO) via local websites, bulletin boards and newsletters. • Link parents to community and government resources that provide support services to families (e.g. youth organizations, counseling agencies, nutrition programs). Provide parents with opportunities to network and support each other are parenting skills. • Inform and demonstrate www.migreatparents.org and www.greatstartstclair.org to families. Inform families of accessibility at local libraries or personal computers. • Establish an easily accessible parent/family resource center (in the school or community) where parents can find information on parenting, child development and support services. • Partner with community organizations to provide workshops for families. • Develop training programs, support groups and other learning experiences based on input from family surveys. An example is the Systematic Training For Effective Parenting (STEP) offered by CARE of SE MI. • Encourage collaboration between school personnel and parents to find ways to prevent violence, bullying and other anti-social behavior from occurring in the schools. Work together to ensure that schools are safe environments for student learning and development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form community partnerships that offer resources to support students and families to focus on learning. • Refer parents to www.greatstartstclair.org • Familiarize families with the St. Clair County Great Start Collaborative • Ask local paper to do story on special events throughout the year. Collaborate with district PR staff to develop a Press Release. • Invite community workers to visit classrooms. • Take field trips to local businesses. • Have the public library or school librarian prepare a list of books about Kindergarten. Invite a librarian, elementary school principal and Kindergarten teacher to read to the preschoolers. • Invite various school workers such as bus driver, custodian, secretary and art/music/gym teacher to visit preschoolers in the classrooms. • Invite grandparents, parents and other community members to read to students in their home language. • Post the district and school improvement plan, meeting minutes and agendas (i.e. school committee, school council, PTA/PTO) via local websites, bulletin Boards and newsletters. • Link parents to community and government resources that provide support services to families (e.g. youth organizations, counseling agencies, nutrition programs). www.greatstartstclair.org

SECTION 4 TRANSITION TIMELINE

School to Children Connection	School to Family Connection	School to School/Community Connection
ONGOING, CONT'D		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training to participants on committees to help them work as effective partners. This training may involve running effective meetings, resolving differences, defining school jargon and procedures, making discussions accessible to bilingual parents and others with limited involvement in day-to-day operations, and ways to actively invite parents to comment on discussions and decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide parents with opportunities to network and support each other are parenting skills. Establish an easily accessible parent/family resource center (in the school or community) where parents can find information on parenting, child development and support services. • Provide training to participants on committees to help them work as effective partners. This training may involve running effective meetings, resolving differences, defining school jargon and procedures, making discussions accessible to bilingual parents and others with limited involvement in day to day operations, and ways to actively invite parents to comment on discussions and decisions. • Ensure that teachers and all school staff have printed information about local adult basic education programming and community resources and services so that they may share this information with families. • Educate staff about community resources and programs and how to connect families with such resources. • Partner with community organizations to provide workshops for families. Develop training programs, support groups and other learning experiences based on input from family surveys, e.g. Systematic Training For Effective Training (STEP).
ANNUALLY		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and distribute a county professional development calendar for educators and community staff.

K	I	N	D	E	R	G	A	R	T	E	N
T	R	A	N	S	I	T	I	O	N	★	★



SECTION 5 TRANSITION BOOKS

TRANSITION BOOKS

Storybooks are the natural currency of teachers in early childhood and elementary school settings. Reading stories can help children become more comfortable with transition to kindergarten as they are often used to start discussions and are particularly helpful in broaching subjects that are new, sensitive, or challenging.

Many books are available that acknowledge children's anxiety and excitement, show other children having similar feelings and celebrate the growth and pride in the transition to kindergarten. Start your own school Transition Library today.

Choosing books

In choosing books on transition, look for the following attitudes and feelings:

- Transition can be exciting and also a little scary
- Other children have similar feelings
- There is much to be proud of as you transition and grow

Prepare

Before reading the book with children, review it thoroughly to be sure you know the story and can answer questions. If possible, gather information about the new setting so accurate answers can be given to children's questions about what their new program will be like.

Tell the story

Read the book with the children. First, ask open-ended questions about what happened in the story. Open-ended questions invite children to expand upon their answers. Help children label the feelings of the child (character) in the story. Expand the discussion with questions such as: "What did the child (character) seem worried about at his new school? What helped him feel better?" Show pictures of an actual kindergarten classroom if available.

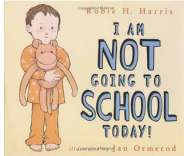


Discuss the story

- Present new words to children, helping them expand their vocabularies
- Respond to children's questions letting them take the conversational lead which helps build their language skills.

Make books available

Regularly rotate books on transition on the classroom or school library. Provide parents with a list of the books and develop a circulation system for families. A suggested list follows. Please see your local librarians for more information.



I Am Not Going to School Today!

Robie Harris, 2003 Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing

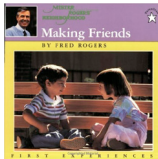
When a child gets ready for the first day of school, it feels very exciting. But doing something new for the first time can also feel somewhat scary.



The Kissing Hand

Audrey Penn, 1993 Tanglewood Press

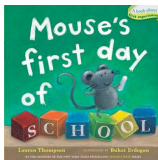
In this contemporary classic, Chester Raccoon seeks love and reassurance from his mother as he ventures out into the world to attend his very first day of school.



Making Friends

Fred Rogers, 1996 Penguin Group (USA)

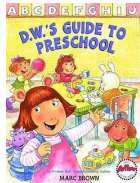
Making friends is one of the nicest experiences of growing up...but it's not always the easiest!



Mouse's First Day of School

Lauren Thompson, 2003 Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing

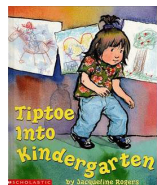
Mouse decides to hide inside a bright red backpack...and ends up at school! As he explores this place full of colors, letters, and numbers, Mouse discovers a world beyond his imagination—and makes some friends along the way.



D.W.'s Guide to Preschool

March Brown, 2006 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

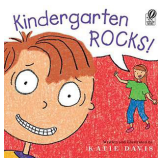
D.W., Arthur's fun and sassy little sister, stars in this humorous guide to a child's very first day of school.



Tiptoe Into Kindergarten

Jacqueline Rogers, 2003 Scholastic, Inc.

Rhythmic text and a warm, happy environment welcome children who are fearful of kindergarten as well as those who are eager to begin.



Kindergarten Rocks!

Katie Davis, 2008 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Sure, some kids are a little afraid of going to kindergarten, but not Dexter. No, he's not a bit afraid...he's *terrified*. But his big sister helps him.



Welcome to Kindergarten

Annie Rockwell, 2004 Walker and Company

Join Tim as he visits his future kindergarten classroom and learns what he will do during his first year of school. The classroom may look a little too big at first, but after finding out about all the fun ahead, it doesn't seem too big at all. In fact, it's just the right size.



Leo the Late Bloomer

Robert Kraus, 1994 Harper Collins Publishing

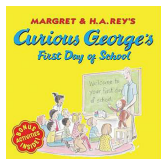
When everyone starts blooming, poor Leo is left behind. But with the encouragement of his mother and the patience of his father, Leo proves that eventually everyone blooms.



Kindergarten Countdown

Anna Jane Hays, 2007 Random House Children's Books

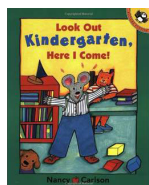
In this delightful book, a little girl counts off the days by naming what she'll do in kindergarten. "I'll be ready, I'll be smart. I will get a running start. I'll say thank you, I'll say please. I will say my ABCs!" And deciding what to wear and what to take are all part of her preparation for that exciting first day.



Curious George's First Day of School

H.A. (Hans Augusto) Rey, 2005 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

It's the first day of school and George has been invited to Mr. Apple's class to be a special helper! George is just the right monkey for the job—that is, until he starts to make his usual mischief.



Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!

Nancy Carlson, 2001 Penguin Group (USA)

The first day of kindergarten is finally here, and Henry can't wait to paint pictures, sing songs, and practice counting. When he gets to school, though, he's not so sure he's ready for kindergarten.



The Night Before Kindergarten

Natasha Wing, 2001 Penguin Group

It's the first day of school! Join the kids as they prepare for kindergarten, packing school supplies, posing for pictures, and the hardest part of all—saying goodbye to mom and dad. But it won't be so hard once they discover just how much fun kindergarten really is!



Countdown to Kindergarten

Alison McGhee, 2006 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

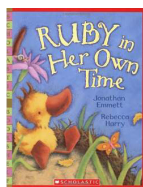
It's ten days before kindergarten—and according to a first grader, you can't get in unless you know how to tie your shoes. What is an almost kindergarten girl up against the clock to do?



Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten

Joseph Slate, 2001 Penguin Group (USA)

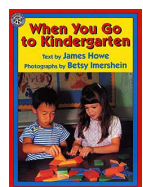
It's the first day of kindergarten and Miss Bindergarten is hard at work getting the classroom ready for her 26 new students. This rhyming, brightly illustrated book is the perfect way to practice the alphabet and introduce young children to kindergarten.



Ruby in Her Own Time

Jonathan Emmett, 2007 Scholastic, Inc.

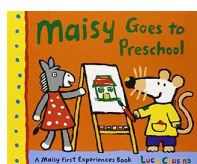
Mother Duck and Father Duck are worried about Ruby. As the littlest duckling of the family, she learns to eat and swim long after her four brothers and sisters. Father Duck frets that Ruby will never catch up, but Mother Duck calmly reassures him that Ruby will flourish—“in her own time.”



When You Go to Kindergarten

James Howe, 1995 Harper Collins Publishers

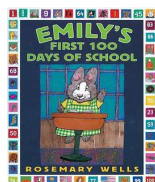
This critically acclaimed book has been thoroughly updated and re-illustrated with all-new photographs.



Maisy Goes to Preschool

Lucy Cousins, 2010 Candlewick Press

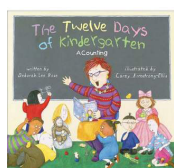
In a bright book of familiar scenes, this child-friendly look at a day in the life of a preschooler is one that newcomers and seasoned pros alike will love.



Emily's First 100 Days of School

Rosemary Wells, 2005 Hyperion Books for Children

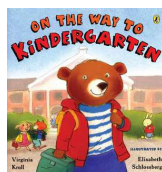
A bright, jubilant, oversized book that celebrates the joy of learning. Starting with the number 1 for the first day of school, Emily learns the numbers to 100 in many different ways.



Twelve Days of Kindergarten—A Counting Book

Deborah Lee Rose, 2003 Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

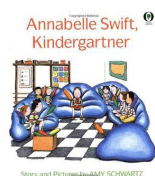
On the first day of kindergarten, my teacher gave to me...the whole alphabet from A to Z! Drawing on the rhythm and rich repetition of the familiar carol The Twelve Days of Christmas, *The Twelve Days of Kindergarten* is a welcoming introduction to school.



On the Way to Kindergarten

Virginia Knoll, 2010 Penguin Group (USA)

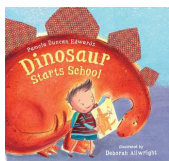
They grow up so fast, Here's the best way to celebrate all they've achieved, and help them get excited for kindergarten!



Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner

Amy Schwartz, 1991 Scholastic, Inc

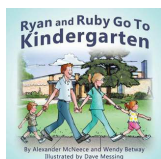
Although some of the things her older sister taught her at home seem a little unusual at school, other lessons help make Annabelle's first day in kindergarten a success.



Dinosaur Starts School

Pamela Duncan Edwards, 2010 Whitman, Albert and Co.

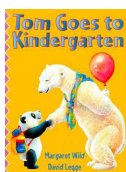
It's the first day of school and Dinosaur has a lot to be worried about, from the size of the building to the yucky food in the school cafeteria to the mess he made during painting time.



Ryan and Ruby Go to Kindergarten

Alexander McNece and Wendy Betway, 2008 Nelson Publishing and Marketing

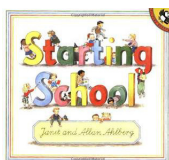
Now that twins Ryan and Ruby are five-years-old, it's almost time to start kindergarten at Douglas Elementary. But are they ready? Spend the day with them as they practice their ABCs, numbers, colors, and shapes with their family.



Tom Goes to Kindergarten

Margaret Wild and David Legge, 2000 Albert Whitman and Company

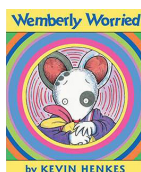
Legge's (Bamboozled) fun-filled watercolors are as infectious as Australian author Wild's lively tale of a young panda's first day of school.



Starting School

Allan Ahlberg and Janet Ahlberg, 1990 Penguin Group

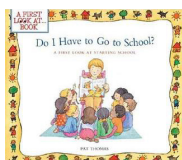
Through rich illustrations, this book shows children what going to school entails. From playhouse to playground, from stories to school dinners, this book attempts to calm anxieties and fire enthusiasm in preschool children.



Wemberly Worried

Kevin Henkes, 2010 Harper Collins Publishers

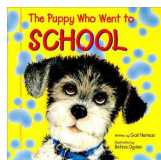
Wemberly is a mouse who does one thing really well—worry. At the top of Wemberly's list of worries is starting school. She can't imagine all the things that could go wrong.



Do I Have to Go to School? A Look at Starting School

Pat Thomas, 2006 Barron Educational Series, Inc.

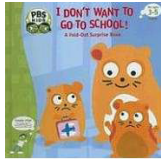
This book speaks directly to preschoolers and early elementary students, encouraging them to explore their feelings and talk about things that bother them.



The Puppy Who Went to School

Gail Herman and Betina Ogden, 2000 Penguin Group USA

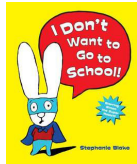
Wags is Ben's puppy. Anywhere Ben goes, Wags goes, too. So when it's time for Ben to go to school, guess who's following right behind?



I Don't Want to Go to School: A fold-out surprise book

Ellen Weiss, 2006 Brighter Minds Children's Publishing

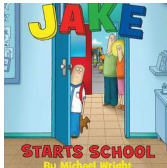
It's the first day of school for Duncan and Lulu and they're scared. Will it be fun? Their mom says it will! Unfold the flap on each page to see all the activities and friends that await Duncan and Lulu on their first day of school.



I Don't Want to Go to School!

Stephanie Blake, 2009 Random House Children's Books

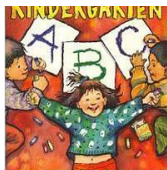
Author-illustrator Blake delivers a book to ease those first-day-of-school jitters and has created a lovable character in Simon the Super Rabbit, whose cautious approach to something new will feel familiar for parents and children alike. Originally written in French, some of the illustrated activities may seem unusual to American preschoolers, but Simon's initial fears and renewed self confidence will speak to readers of all cultural backgrounds about to start, reluctantly or not, their own school adventures.



Jake Starts School

Michael Wright, 2010 Square Fish

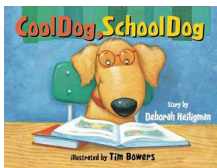
It's Jake's first day of school. He doesn't want his mom and dad to leave him there alone. Will Jake ever be able to stay at school on his own? The answer will delight and reassure children and their (anxious) parents!



Kindergarten ABC

Jacqueline Rogers, 2002 Scholastic, Inc.

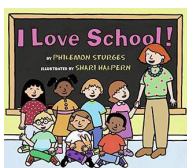
On A day we find acorns, on B day we bring in our backpacks, on C day we change the calendar. Each and every day celebrates a letter of the alphabet with a fun-filled classroom scene.



Cool Dog, School Dog

Deborah Heiligman and Tim Bowers, 2009, Cavendish Marshall Corporation

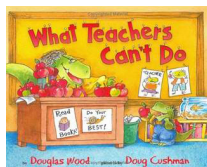
Tinka is a golden retriever who offers a rather distinctive take on the separation anxiety that is triggered on many levels when a young child begins the great adventure of schooling. Emphasis on the dog missing its master rather than on the trauma of leaving home for the child could prove to be an effective way for teachers and parents to talk about the challenges and benefits of participating in the world of school.



I Love School

Philemon Sturges and Shari Halpern, 2006 Harper Collins Publishers

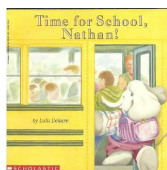
What's your favorite part of the school day? Come along to a warm, friendly world of reading and writing, singing and painting and all-around fun that will make you want to yell, "I love school!"



What Teachers Can't Do

Douglas Wood and Doug Cushman, Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing

There are lots of things that regular people can do, but teachers can't. Teachers can't ride a bike or scooter to school. And they can never be tardy. But first they really need some help cleaning the blackboard. *And* the erasers! It's a wonder they come back to school at all.



Time for School, Nathan!

Lulu Delacre, 1991 Scholastic, Inc.

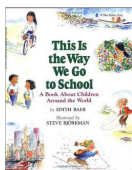
Nathan the elephant triumphs on his first day of school when he learns how to divide his attention between school and his jealous best friend, Nicholas Alexander.



Who Will Go to Kindergarten Today?

Karl Ruhlman and Miriam Monnier, 2002 North-South Books, Inc.

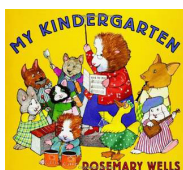
One day Sam decides he does not want to go to school. He comes up with the idea of sending his stuffed monkey in his place. Whether it's first-day jitters or middle-of-term blahs, here's the perfect solution for children who don't want to go to school.



This is the Way Children Go to School

Edith Baer and Steve Bjorkman, 1992 Scholastic, Inc. (Available in reprint only)

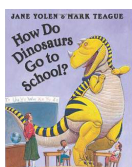
This book describes, in text and through illustrations, the many different modes of transportation children all over the world use to get to school.



My Kindergarten

Rosemary Wells, 2004 Hyperion Books

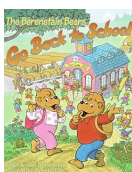
Organized into monthly segments and accompanied by bright, appealing artwork, this one-of-a-kind complete kindergarten book offers parents, teachers, and children a special way to share the most important school year in a child's life.



How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?

Jane Yolen and Mark Teague, 2007 Scholastic, Inc.

Everyone's favorite dinosaurs are back—and this time they are going to school. More fun dinosaur antics await. Yolen and Teague capture children's rambunctious natures with playful read-aloud verse and wonderfully amusing pictures.



The Berenstain Bears Go Back to School

Stand and Jan Berenstain and Michael Berenstain, 2009 Harper Collins Publishers

It's summer break and the bear cubs are reminded by Mama Bear that fall is arriving and soon they will be going back to school.



The Best Teacher Ever

Mercer Mayer, 2008 Harper Collins Publishers

Little Critter has the best teacher around. Join Little Critter as he searches for the perfect gift to show Miss Kitty just how special she is to him!



Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten

Toni Buzzeo and Amy Wummer, 2010 Penguin Young Reader Group

Annie Grace wears her “Adventure Annie” cape to her first day of kindergarten and proceeds to barrel through the day, searching for adventure in every moment. Spirited and funny, this is an introduction to kindergarten that will please kids and teachers alike.



Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?

Audrey Vernick and Daniel Jennewein, Harper Collins Children's Books

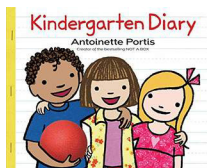
Your Buffalo is growing up. He plays with friends, shares his toys, and he's smart! But is he ready for kindergarten? (And is kindergarten ready for him?) A hilarious look at first-day-of-school jitters.



Let's Take Over the Kindergarten

Richard Hamilton and See Heap, 2007 Bloomsbury USA

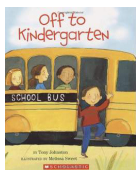
What happens when the students take over the school after their teacher gets caught in the jungle gym? They have a great time. A fun read-aloud for kindergartners or any child excited about starting school.



Kindergarten Diary

Antoinette Portis, 2010 Harper Collins Publisher

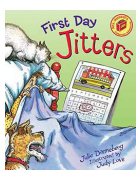
Starting kindergarten can be a little scary. Experience the ups and downs of the first days of kindergarten through Annalina's very own diary (as told to Antionette Portis) and discover why the kids in Room 2K are just fine!



Off to Kindergarten

Tony Johnson and Melissa Sweet, 2007 Scholastic, Inc.

“I’m off to kindergarten now. I’d better take my bear. He likes to sit beside me so, I’ll take a little chair...” So begins the long list of things Bill absolutely needs for his first day of school. A touching story of first-day jitters and hopes. Tony Johnson’s rhyming text is paired with Melissa Sweet’s delightful illustrations.



First Day Jitters

Jule Dannebert and Judith Dufour, 2000 Charlesbridge Publishing

Sarah Jane is worried about going to a new school. Readers will understand and sympathize with Sarah’s feelings and laugh when they discover the surprise ending to this delightful story.