

Questions and Answers about Kindergarten

- **What happens in the kindergarten classroom?**
 - Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 supports a full-day kindergarten program for all students. Each day is packed full of learning! Students in kindergarten will be exposed to reading, writing, and math each and every day, in addition to skill-building activities. In the beginning of the year a lot of time is spent on developing routines in the classroom and learning to navigate the classroom and school building. While kindergarten students still have time to draw and color, kindergarten is much more academic-focused than preschool.
- **Will my student continue to receive special education services?**
 - Yes, students who receive special education services will continue to receive those services in kindergarten. Often times a “transition IEP meeting” will be scheduled to go over services with a kindergarten teacher and the new case manager. Sometimes services may look different in kindergarten however. For example, often times a student who receives speech/language support or occupational therapy may be pulled out of class in a small group in kindergarten instead of receiving that support inside the preschool classroom. Behavioral and emotional supports may be provided by a school psychologist in kindergarten rather than the preschool teacher like years prior.
- **What are Specials and Related Arts?**
 - Beginning in kindergarten, students attend “specials” or “related arts” on a rotating basis with their class. In many buildings, these include PE, art, music, and sometimes technology. In addition to these classes, students will also receive a weekly time to go to the school library and check out books.
- **Is my student going to fall through the cracks in kindergarten?**
 - No! There are many supports built in to the elementary school setting to ensure that each student gets his or her needs met. The kindergarten setting is able to individualize medical needs, special education needs, and schedules to set each student up for success!
- **But my student is too small to be around all those larger students!**
 - Elementary schools understand that the transition to kindergarten can be difficult for everyone! Each school has a separate playground just for kindergarten students to make sure everyone is safe. In addition, kindergarten classrooms are clustered together with restrooms nearby to minimize transitions among other students. Kindergarten students have a

special place to sit in the lunchroom with other kindergarteners, and kindergarten students are supervised ALL of the time!

- **What if my student still takes a nap?**
 - Kindergarten teachers know that the transition from a part-day preschool program to a full-day kindergarten program is significant for many students, and take that into consideration when planning their schedules. Many kindergarten classrooms offer a time where students can lay down, rest their heads on their desks, or just sit quietly for a bit during the middle of the day until students become better accustomed to a full day setting.
- **My student receives outside therapy during the day- what will happen in kindergarten?**
 - While of course private therapies may continue, we encourage you to work with providers so that therapy can be scheduled outside of the school day. Providers may work with the school district to come observe your student in the classroom setting but are not able to provide therapy within the school environment.
- **Will my student continue to receive special education transportation?**
 - While most students in preschool have access to special education busing because they are so small, those decisions are made on a case-by-case basis for kindergarten based on student safety. These decisions will be made by the IEP team (including you) at the transition IEP meeting. It is important to ask your school about transportation too-dependng on your address your student will either be able to access general education busing (and will have an assigned bus stop) or will be in a walking zone.
- **What can I do to help make the transition successful?**
 - There are several ways that parents can help make the transition to kindergarten successful. Make sure to continue fostering strong and frequent communication between home and school, just like preschool! Also, read with your student every night as part of their evening routine!
- **Any additional things I need to know?**
 - The Resource Exchange (TRE) is a local organization that serves children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If your student falls into one of these categories it is important to put his or her name on their list early to ensure supports when he or she transitions out of high school. Services are limited so get on the list early! The phone number for more information is 719.380.1100.