



**Welcome to**  
**Kindergarten**  
**2025-2026**

# Introduction to Kindergarten!

The first day of school is a big step in your child's life. Whether this is their first time in school or not, kindergarten is full of new challenges, excitement, and fun!

In kindergarten, your child will learn important skills that will help them succeed in school and in life. Learning is more about the process than the final product, and kids absorb knowledge best through hands-on activities that allow them to experience as they learn. Kindergarteners do well when they sing, chant, do experiments, and work with friends. The standards for kindergarten are high, but they are meant to help your child love learning for life.

Working with your child's teacher and showing that you value education will be key to a great school year. Your involvement, interest, and enthusiasm will help your child grow a lot this year.





# Social and Emotional Development

Kindergarten is a year where your child will grow in many ways—socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. The main goal is to help your child develop in all these areas.

Teachers pay attention to every part of your child's development to make the best decisions in the classroom. In kindergarten, you'll see your child make big strides and mature a lot in just one year.

Besides learning to read and do math, your child will also learn important life skills like making friends, being responsible, and becoming more independent.



# Math Strategies

## 1. Make Counting Part of Everyday Life

- Count stairs as you walk up and down.
- Count toys when cleaning up from activities.
- Count clothes when getting dressed.

## 2. Use Hands-On Math Manipulatives

- Use counter, buttons, or small toys to represent numbers.
- Stack blocks or LEGOs to introduce addition and subtraction.
- Arrange coins or beads to practice sorting and patterns.

## 3. Play Math Games to Make Learning Fun

- Hide and Seek: count to 10 before looking!
- Roll a dice and count the dots. Use 2 dice to introduce addition and subtraction.

## 4. Teach Shapes and Patterns Through Play

- Look for shapes in everyday objects (e.g., wheels are circles, doors are rectangles)
- Use blocks or sticks to make and repeat patterns.
- Sort objects by color, size, or shape to develop classification skills.

## 5. Introduce Simple Addition and Subtraction With Objects

- Use toys or snacks: “You have 3 apple slices. If I give you 2 more, how many do you have now?”
- Number Line or Hopscotch: draw a number line on big paper or the ground with chalk and let kids hop forward (addition) or backward (subtraction).
- Finger counting: hold up 5 fingers, now put down 3 fingers. How many fingers to you see?



# Reading Strategies

## 1. Talk to Your Child

- Ask your child to talk about their day. Encourage them to explain something they did, or a game they played.

## 2. Say Silly Tongue Twisters

- Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters.

## 3. Read it and Experience it

- Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about animals, relate it to a trip to the zoo.

## 4. Use Your Child's Name

- Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say, "John, the word *jump* begins with the same sound as your name. *John*, *jump*. And they both begin with the same letter, J."

## 5. Trace and Say Letters

- Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.

## 6. Play Sound Games

- Practice blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? *m - o - p*." Hold each sound longer than normal.

## 7. Talk About Letters and Sounds

- Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmmmm."

## 8. Read It Again and Again

- Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask our child about what is going on in the book.



# Fine & Gross Motor Skills

- Teach your child proper pencil grip: Provide pencils, envelopes, and various types of paper to encourage writing practice.
- Introduce puzzles: Start with larger puzzle pieces and gradually introduce smaller, more complex pieces as your child's skills develop.
- Watering activity: Allow your child to use a spray bottle filled with water to water plants or objects, making it a fun outdoor activity on a warm day.
- Practice tearing and cutting paper: Begin by having your child tear paper, then progress to using safety scissors to cut colored paper into strips and various shapes.
- Alphabet writing practice: Encourage your child to practice writing the alphabet, either in sand or on a whiteboard. Start by having them trace lightly written letters using different colors.
- Outdoor play: Take your child to a local playground or splash pad to enjoy the summer weather.
- Physical development: Teach your child important physical skills, such as running, hopping, skipping, jumping, catching, and throwing, by practicing them outdoors.





# Transition to Kindergarten

## Children's Book List



*Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate



*The Twelve Days of Kindergarten* by Deborah Lee Rose



*Countdown to Kindergarten* by Alison McGhee



*Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson



*Kindergarten Rocks!* by Katie Davis



*The Queen of Kindergarten* by Derrick Barnes and Vanessa Brantley-Newton



*Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by D.J. Steinberg



*A Place Called Kindergarten* by Jessica Harper



*Welcome to Kindergarten* by Anne Rockwell



*The King of Kindergarten* by Derrick Barnes and Vanessa Brantley-Newton

# Tips for a Successful School Year

- Talk with Your Child
  - Talk early and often with your child to foster communication.
- Reach for the Sky: Set High but Realistic Expectations
  - Take time to recognize your child's strengths, talents, and areas where help is needed to build realistic self-expectations.
- Build Your Child's Self-Esteem and Confidence
  - Accept your child unconditionally to help develop a positive self-concept and boost their self-esteem.
- Keep Your Child Healthy
  - Ensure your child feels well-rested, well-nourished, and healthy to make learning more effective.
- Support Learning at Home
  - Show interest in your child's schooling and read with them as often as possible to demonstrate the value of learning.
- Communicate with Your Child's School
  - Regular communication with teachers and attending school events or PTA meetings helps build strong relationships that support academic success.
- Help Your Child Develop Good Relationships
  - Encourage good relationships as they positively impact your child's future development.
- Keep Your Child Safe
  - Talk to your child about safety and help them understand the importance of practicing safe behaviors to reduce the risk of violence.





# Parent Resources

## Families Transition to Kindergarten:

Link: [Families Transition to Kindergarten](#)



## Florida Early Learning and Developmental:

Standards and Other Resources (FELDS) –What children should know and be able to do at the end of an age range.

<https://flbt5.floridaeearlylearning.com/>



## Monthly Newsletter DEL CCRR offers the Parents Pages:

A monthly newsletter with helpful resources and information.

<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/parents/parent-pages.stml>



## Building a Strong Foundation:

Understanding the science behind how children learn to read, creating routines to help foster a love of literacy, and recognizing differences between learners.

<https://earlyliteracymatters.org/resources/building-a-strong-foundation/>



# School Information

## Find My School

<https://www.vcsedu.org/find-my-school>

Click on the link above if you need to find the zoned schools for your address.

## Extended Day Enrichment Program

<https://www.vcsedu.org/directory/departments/teaching-leading-and-learning/before-the-bell-and-extended-day-enrichment-programs>

The Extended Day Enrichment Program offers supervision and a variety of enrichment activities for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. The program is

fee-supported by those using its services.

## School Way Cafe

<https://www.vcsedu.org/directory/departments/operation-services/school-way-cafe>

Volusia County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services provides nutritionally

balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day.

## Health Services

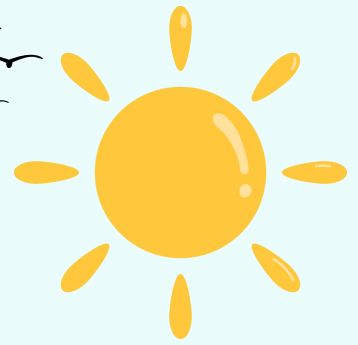
<https://www.vcsedu.org/directory/departments/student-services/student-health-services>

Registered Lead Nurses monitor and provide guidance to school personnel throughout the District. Each new school year, parents are required to complete an Emergency Student Information form with names and phone numbers of people authorized to pick up your child if you are unable to be reached. In an emergency, 911 may be called.

- Please do not send your child to school if they are sick (bad cough, severe cold, throwing up, diarrhea or have a fever).
- Volusia County Public Schools' policy requires that all prescriptions and over-the-counter medicine that students receive at school must be kept in the nurse's office.
- Medicine cannot be administered by the school without proper authorization.
- Students who need a prescribed medication must have the appropriate form signed by their parent or guardian.
- The parent or guardian must bring the medication in its original bottle to school.



# Summer Activity Calendar



Explore the outdoors observe animals and insects	Visit local library and get your summer books	Self-Help practices practicing (buttons)	Share a toy with a friend	Practice your telephone and address
Practice writing letters	Trace familiar words	Draw pictures of your favorite vacations	Self-Help practices practicing (Buckles)	Practice your telephone number
Self-Help practices practicing (laces)	Count to 10	Practice your full name	Practice writing numbers	Practice reading familiar words
Practice writing your name	Self-Help practices practicing (unbuckles)	Measure items around the house	Have fun with rhymes	Draw a picture of your self
Use your scissors and practice cutting	Create patterns	Go on a shape hunt	Self-Help practices practicing (zips)	Talk about going to kindergarten







## **Volusia County Schools District Staff**

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For more information:  
<https://www.vcsedu.org/directory/departments/teaching-leading-and-learning/early-learning-department>