

## Is My Child Ready?

As children near the age to enter kindergarten, parents often wonder whether their child is ready for school. In an attempt to make this decision, many questions often surface, such as “My child has a late birthday. Should I hold her out another year before sending her to kindergarten?” Parents often spend considerable time contemplating this decision. The following information can be considered as YOU make this decision.

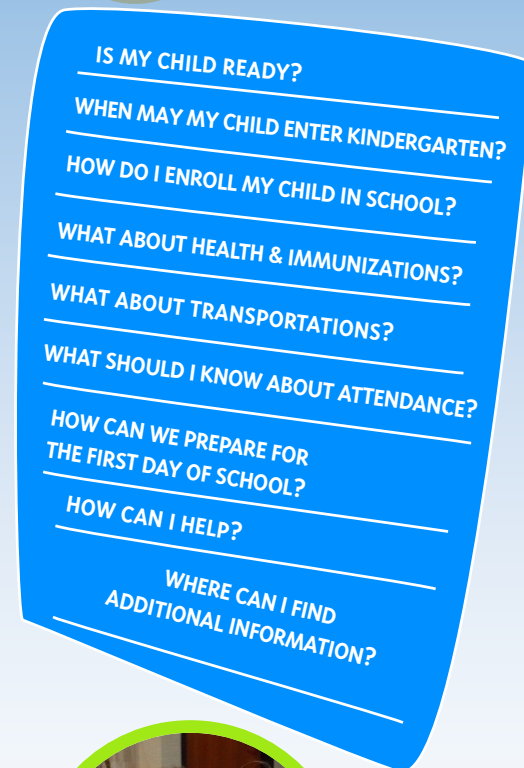
Child researchers have long known that young children vary greatly in terms of development. Young children grow and change rapidly. Holding a child out of school because of age, sex, or lack of skills does not ensure success. By delaying school entry for students considered “not ready”, children are often excluded from rich experiences. No matter what the entrance age is for kindergarten children, a wide range of maturity and prior life experiences will always exist among children. Recognizing and accepting the inherent differences in young children is critical for both parents and educators.

Labeling a child as “not ready” may only mean a child is not prepared for a particular experience or curriculum. Furthermore, testing young children to determine if they are ready for kindergarten is **not** a practice supported by the Olathe Public Schools. Many national groups interested in early childhood education have raised concerns regarding the testing of children to determine entrance into kindergarten.

“Is my child ready?” (for kindergarten) may not be the question. The question may be “Is the school ready for my child?” Kindergarten classrooms in the Olathe Public Schools are designed to match the curriculum program to the children, not vice versa. Kindergarten teachers accept children where they are upon entrance and help them progress.

**The Olathe Public Schools are ready for your children!**

Kindergarten is a beginning place; a place to grow. The first day of kindergarten is a big day in a child’s life. As adults, we can prepare our children for this important day. This brochure answers commonly asked questions about getting ready for kindergarten in the Olathe Public Schools. Answers to these questions may help parents, care providers, and most importantly, young children prepare for the kindergarten learning experience.



## Where Can I Find Additional Information?

Helpful resource people are your child’s kindergarten teacher and the building principal. The school nurse, the school counselor, the school psychologist, and special education teachers can also provide useful information. Staff members in the Olathe Public Schools are anxious to work with you to ensure a positive and successful school experience for your child.



**Notification Statement of Non-discrimination:** The Olathe Public Schools prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity in its programs, activities or employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups to its facilities as required by: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Access Act of 1984 and other relevant state and federal laws as amended. Inquiries regarding compliance with applicable civil rights statutes related to race, ethnicity, gender, age discrimination, sexual orientation, gender identity or equal access may be directed to Staff Counsel, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone 913-780-7000. All inquiries regarding compliance with applicable statutes regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the Executive Director of Special Services, 14160 S. Black Bob Rd. Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone (913) 780-7000. Interested persons including those with impaired vision or hearing, can also obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons by calling the Assistant Superintendent, Operations. (05/22)

Revised 1/30/24

# Getting Ready for Kindergarten



**A Parent Brochure of Information**

**Olathe Public Schools**



## When May My Child Enter Kindergarten?

Students residing within the Olathe Public Schools attendance boundaries may be enrolled in kindergarten if, as stipulated by Kansas law, they are five years of age on or before August 31 of the current school year. A certified birth certificate, not a hospital certificate, must be presented to the school. (In addition, for your information, the Tax Reform Act of 1986 requires that any child age two and over must have a social security number.)

## How Do I Enroll My Child In School?

In the spring of each year, the Olathe Public Schools has pre-enrollment for kindergarten children. Each child is enrolled at the school in the attendance area where the family resides. Pre-enrollment gives parents an opportunity to meet school personnel and see kindergarten classrooms. Parents will complete the enrollment process prior to school starting.



## What About A Well-Child Checkup And Immunizations?

Well-child checkups (physical) are important to the health and well-being of your child. That is why Kansas requires proof of a physical. Well-child checkups let you, the school, and the doctor know that your child is developing properly and that they have received all the required immunizations for school. Most insurance plans, including KanCare cover annual well-child exams. A form for both the physical and the required immunizations will be provided at Kindergarten Enrollment.

Per Kansas Statute 72-5214, Doctors of Chiropractic Medicine are not allowed to perform school entrance physicals, although they may conduct sports physicals for Middle and High School students. Health Professionals approved to conduct a well-child, school entrance physical in the state of Kansas are: Physicians (MD and DO), physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners, or specifically trained RNs.

## What About Transportation?

You may pay for your child to ride the bus on a space available basis if you live under the required distance and if the school has bus service. You may call the bus company (782-1050).



## What Should I Know About Attendance?

School attendance is extremely important for academic success and for the development of quality work habits. Getting to school at the proper time is also important. Daily school hours are listed on the school year calendar located under the *About Us* tab at [www.olatheschools.org](http://www.olatheschools.org).

## How Can We Prepare For The First Day Of School?

A “dress rehearsal” will make the first day of school a more pleasant and comfortable experience. Before school begins, you and your child should:

1. Practice the best route by walking to and from school or the bus stop.
2. Become familiar with the school grounds, building, and personnel.
3. Know and understand safety rules.
4. It is helpful if your child knows:
  - His/her first and last name.
  - Home address.
  - Home phone number.
  - Parent(s)' first and last name(s).
5. Pinning the bus number to the student's shirt or blouse will ensure the student boards the correct bus.
6. Label all personal belongings with child's name.



## How Can I Help?

A parent is a child's first and most important teacher. You provide your child with the foundation that will guide and support future school success. Recognize the important role you play as you continue to prepare your child for that first day of school and for future school successes. Value the importance of the daily opportunities you have to interact with your child in positive and significant ways.

- Talk with your child and listen. Your child learns much about language and vocabulary through conversations and questions.
- Read to your child daily. Make books available and use your public library.
- Let your child see you reading, writing, and learning as it applies to your daily life. Share your own enthusiasm for learning.
- Set aside a special place for learning and for learning materials (crayons, pencils, paper, scissors, etc.).
- Use trips to the store as well as special trips to the zoo or park to help your child explore and observe the environment.
- Encourage play, which is the way children explore and experiment with the world around them. Play develops initiative, imagination, and interest.
- Provide opportunities for your child to expand social development through interacting with other children and adults. Children need experiences that help them learn social skills, sharing, getting along with others, and caring.
- Limit the time your child spends watching television.

