

Sidwell Friends

PreKindergarten & Kindergarten Admissions Process: A Guide for Families

PreK and Kindergarten follow nearly identical steps, so this single page covers both — differences are called out where they apply. This is genuinely the simplest checklist we offer: three steps for PreK, four for Kindergarten, and no outside testing required for either grade.

PREKINDERGARTEN	KINDERGARTEN
Born August 31, 2022 – September 1, 2023	Born August 31, 2021 – September 1, 2022

→ **By December 1, 2026**

Family Information Form *(Both grades)*

- **What it is:** A form completed by parents/guardians that opens your child's application file — household and contact information, the schools or programs your child has attended, and any context you'd like the committee to have from the very start. Expect to spend no more than 20 – 30 minutes to complete it.
- **Why it matters:** This is the first thing in your child's file, before any teacher comment or report card, so it's genuinely important — it's your family's own words that help shape how we read everything that follows. It's also where many PreK and Kindergarten families first tell us what they've noticed about how their child learns, plays, and grows — information we take seriously, not a formality.
- **One more thing:** Submitting this form allows your family to move forward in the process — it's the step that opens every other step on this checklist, so it's worth completing early even though the deadline is weeks away.

→ **By December 15, 2026**

Register for your child's group visit

A play-based morning in an age-appropriate classroom setting, plus a short one-on-one time between your child and a teacher. There's nothing to prepare beyond a normal routine — children do best simply showing up as themselves.

Confidential teacher/caregiver (but not parent/guardian) recommendation *(Request after Nov 1; due Dec 15)*

Requested from your child's current teacher or caregiver. Forms submitted before November 1 can't be accepted — that date gives a teacher real time with your child before describing them to us. For PreK applicants not yet enrolled in a school or day care, this step is automatically waived; there's nothing you need to request or explain to us.

Provide current year's progress report or report card *(Kindergarten only)*

Whatever regular progress report or assessment your child's current school or program provides this year. This step doesn't apply to PreK applicants.

Schedule your parent/guardian meeting *(virtual or in person)*

- **What it is:** A conversation between parents/guardians and a member of the admissions team — offered on campus or virtually, whichever fits your family's schedule better. This is a conversation, not an evaluation of your child; your child isn't part of this meeting.
- **Why it matters:** For most PreK and Kindergarten families, this is a first real conversation about what our school could look like for your child, so no question is too basic to ask. It also matters to us: this is where we get to know your family beyond what's on paper, and it gives us context — about your child's personality, routines, and what you're hoping to find in a school — that shapes how we understand the rest of the application.
- **Tips for families:** Any parent or guardian involved in the decision is welcome to attend, and it doesn't need to be both if only one is available. Try scheduling this step to take place after you've toured the school or attended the information session. You might be able to schedule them on the same day! And, please be considerate of others by **not** reserving multiple appointments in our system. We'd like to meet all of our candidates' families.

Questions about any step above are always welcome — reach out to admissions.PK6@sidwell.edu at any point in the process.