

Kindergarten Readiness

Ready...

Set...

GO!



Helpful things to know
before your child
enters Kindergarten



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How do I enroll my child in Kindergarten?

- Most school districts offer “Kindergarten Round-Up” in early spring for the following fall.
- Contact your school of choice to find out the exact date.
- At Kindergarten Round-Up you will need: emergency contact information, contact information for the child’s doctor, child’s immunization records, and child’s birth certificate.
- Contact your school of choice to find out additional information needed.
- When you sign up, let the school know if your child gets other services such as speech therapy, physical therapy or has an Individualized Educational Program(IEP).

Michigan allows a child who is 5 years old on or before September 1st, to sign up for Kindergarten.

Remember: Even though children can enter Kindergarten if they turn 5 years old by the fall cutoff date, if you feel your child is not ready and/or they have a fall birthday, you might want to consider having them enter the following year. Every child is different. Children are not legally required to enter school until the age of 6.



***For more information on resources to support your child and family, please visit:
www.greatstarhillsdale.com***

Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

- Recognize and name several letters of the alphabet
- Know some letter sounds
- Able to write some letters
- Recognize basic shapes
- Count out loud from 1-20
- Count 10 objects correctly
- Name colors
- Compare two objects using words like less, more, smaller, larger, etc.
- Sort or group objects by one characteristic (color, shape, size, type, etc.)
- Recognize when words rhyme
- Speak in complete sentences
- Cut a straight line with scissors
- String beads or macaroni
- Use a pencil with control
- Talk about and name their feelings
- Cooperate with others, share, and take turns
- Independently use the bathroom, get dressed, and wash hands
- Say full name, address, and phone number
- Recognize their written name
- Separate easily from parents/caregiver
- Retell a simple story
- Follow directions that have 3-4 steps
- Focus on a task for 10-15 minutes





Ease Those Starting School Jitters

- **Start the first day off right:** Provide a nutritious breakfast and an early, consistent bedtime.
- **Enthusiasm is contagious:** If you convey confidence, excitement and anticipation, your child is more likely to be comfortable with beginning Kindergarten.
- **Visit the school:** Before the first official day of school, arrange to visit the classroom and meet the new teacher.
- **Find a familiar face:** Plan a playdate or outing with another child from the class or program before school begins.





- **Create a daily routine:** A few weeks before school begins create a routine and involve your child in the process of packing his lunch or choosing his clothes.
- **Help the child to ease in:** If the teacher encourages parents to spend some time in the classroom the first day, you can look around with your child. Remember to step back and let your child get involved with other kids and adults.
- **If your child cries during the first days:** It's best to hug them, say goodbye quickly, and then leave. Delaying the process can make children more upset.
- **Always say goodbye:** Never just sneak off. It can make it worse the next day.
- **Give them prior experiences:** If your child has not been away from you, have them attend library story hour, PLAY events, or other small group situations.

Hillsdale County Kindergarten

Programs:

Camden-Frontier Schools
(517) 368-5258

Hillsdale Community Schools
(517) 437-7347

Hillsdale Preparatory School
(517) 437-4625

Jonesville Community Schools
(517) 849-9175

Litchfield Community Schools
(517) 542-2388

North Adams-Jerome Public Schools
(517) 287-4278

Pittsford Area Schools
(517) 523-3481

Reading Community Schools
(517) 283-2188

Waldron Area Schools
(517) 286-6251 ext. 1

Will Carleton Academy
(517) 437-2000



Hillsdale County Intermediate School District
(517) 437-0990

The ISD in cooperation with the eight local school districts and two public school academies, develops, implements and coordinates special education services and programs for all eligible students.