



Getting Ready for the First Day of Kindergarten

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time for both you and your child. Research shows that children who start school with positive feelings and a degree of comfort are more likely to be academically successful and continue to be successful in the next several years of school. You can help your child become excited about starting school by doing the following:

- ❑ Talk with him about the new things that he will learn in Kindergarten.
- ❑ Talk about her friends that she might see in Kindergarten or at her new school. Tell her that it will take a few days to make new friends.
- ❑ Talk about the different staff at school that will help him (Principal, Teacher's Assistant, Music Teacher, Art Teacher...).
- ❑ Listen to his feelings and answer his questions about school.
- ❑ Share positive stories about your first day of Kindergarten or how older siblings, cousins, or friends felt.
- ❑ Visit the school and school playground to help her become familiar with the building and surroundings. Drive the bus route or drive to school and practice saying good-bye at the front door, in the car, at the end of the hallway, or at the classroom door.
- ❑ Share your enthusiasm about him starting school. On the first day of Kindergarten, tell him that you love him and you look forward to seeing him after school and hearing all about his day. Avoid any comments such as "I don't know what I'll do without you all day" or "I'm going to miss you and be so lonely without you."
- ❑ Read children's books about going to school to help her know what to expect and encourage her to talk about her feelings. She might enjoy:

Countdown to Kindergarten by Alison McGhee and Harry Bliss

Froggy Goes to School by Jonathan London

I Love You All Day Long by Francesca Rusackas

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come by Nancy Carlson

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate and Ashley Wolff Sam

and Gram and the First Day of School by Dianne L. Blomberg

How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague

Seven Little Mice Go to School by Haruo Yamashita

Will I Have a Friend? by Miriam Cohen



For more information on preparing your child for Kindergarten, visit the Raising Readers in Story County website at www.raising-readers.org.

