

# Parents Page

## MAY 2015



### Kindergarten Transition 4 Parents

This article is brought to you by the Frontier Early Learning HUB of Grant and Harney County.

You might be asking why we are talking about kindergarten transition now, when it won't be happening until next fall. What parents really need to know is how kindergarten has changed in Oregon and what they need to do to prepare their child. Some changes you might not be aware of are:

- Kindergarten is a full day.
- Your child will be given the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment within the first 6 weeks of entering school.
- Kindergarten looks a lot like first grade used to.
- Transition activities will begin soon in School District 3.

Preparing for your child's first days of kindergarten can be an emotional roller coaster. You want to make sure the transition is a smooth one and that your child is happy and confident in his or her new classroom. The Frontier Early Learning HUB, Humbolt Elementary School, and Early Learning providers of Grant County are collaborating to make this process successful.

#### Transition Activities Planned in District 3:

- **MAY 13, 2013, MOVE UP DAY:** 9 to 11AM, Preschool children starting kindergarten next year will be invited along with their parents to participate in transition activities at Humbolt School. Students and parents will meet with kindergarten teachers and staff, and preschoolers will be partnered with a kindergartener to participate in fun activities and get familiar with the new environment. Please contact Humbolt Elementary School @ 541 575-0454 or your child preschool provider for more information. A box of Kindergarten readiness summer activities will be provided to participants courtesy of the Frontier Early Learning HUB to help parents prepare their student for next year.
- **KINDERGARTEN READINESS DAY:** May 29, 2015, parents can schedule a one on one appointment with the kindergarten teacher. Teachers have set aside times on May 29th to meet with families and get to know them better. An informal assessment will be done at that time. Appointments can be made during Move Up Day or by calling Humbolt School at 541-575-0454.
- **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT:** August 28, 2015, Families are invited to take their student with school supplies to their new classroom and get acquainted with their teachers. Teachers will schedule a kindergarten assessment time for your child during this meeting.
- **SOFT START DAYS:** September 2nd or 3rd, your child will begin school on either September 2nd or 3rd as assigned by the teacher.

As you can see, there is more to starting kindergarten than meets the eye, and building a good relationship and communicating with your child's teacher and school staff will be important.

#### The Oregon Kindergarten Assessment: A Parent's Guide

All children entering Kindergarten will participate in the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment. Your child will participate in assessment activities that focus on early literacy and math skills, approaches to learning, social-emotional development, and self-regulation.

What does this look like? Let's make it simple, here are some examples of Early Literacy skills:

- Letter recognition, can your child identify capital and lower case letters and sounds they make? The state average is 17 letters identified and about 7 sounds.
- Math skills: Number recognition, can your child identify numbers?
- Self-Regulation Skills: Can the child separate from parents without distress?
- Interpersonal Skills: Can your child follow directions?

This is not a complete list of what is on the kindergarten assessment but rather just a snapshot of what it is like.

Your child's teacher can use the results to better understand the areas that your child may need some extra help in. Targeting instruction to meet your child's needs will give your child a strong early start and the best chance at future success.

Every child enters Kindergarten at a slightly different stage in learning and development. Some children have mastered letters but have a hard time with numbers. Some are able to communicate ideas and needs clearly but have difficulty following directions. This is completely normal and expected. Throughout the Kindergarten year, your child's teacher will work to support your child's learning so that he or she enters first grade with the skills needed to succeed in school and life.

#### Activities and Games to Promote Kindergarten Success

- Read with your child. Reading is one of the best ways to encourage a love of reading and give your child the skills to be a confident reader. Your public library can be a great resource for books and scheduled story times.
- Play simple games. Games such as "Simon Says," "Red Light, Green Light," and "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" help your child learn to follow simple directions.
- Give your child the opportunity to make choices. Allowing your child to pick out his own clothes or select the vegetable for the family dinner encourages the development of decision-making skills.
- Allow your child enough time to start and complete a project. Making sure that your child has enough time to complete an activity, such as a block building, improves focus and increases confidence.
- Use math in daily activities and routines. Helping to sort and match socks in the laundry, counting out carrot sticks at snack time, and naming shapes of objects in the room are a few simple ways to introduce math concepts.

## TOGETHER YOU AND YOUR CHILD WILL BE KINDERGARTEN READY!

#### Resources and Tools for Parents

Reading Rockets Tips for Parents of Preschoolers (English) or (Spanish)  
This tip sheet offers fun ways for parents to encourage reading at home.

PBS Parents: Preschool and Kindergarten Math Activities  
This website offers fun math activities for at home and on-the-go.

<http://www.familiesfirstofgrantcounty.org>

Families First Parent Resource Center offers home visiting and parenting education programs to help you get your kids ready for school.

[www.ready2learnoregon.org](http://www.ready2learnoregon.org)

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Ready 2 Learn - A special program in partnership with libraries for children 0-5 to give them the building blocks of learning. Grow, Dream, Succeed.

<http://www.grantcounty.plinkit.org/>

The Grant County Public Library: Offers story times, resources and summer programs.

The Frontier Early Learning Hub would like to give a special THANKS to all of our community partners that are making these activities possible!

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