



Kindergarten Information for Family Advocates Please Share!

Important school information for families who live in the PPS boundary

1. **Know your school.** Families can find their neighborhood school based on their home address. To identify a child's school go to: pps.net, "Schools" "Find a school" and insert the address. Or call 503-916-3205. Children are guaranteed a place at their neighborhood school.
2. **Register early.** Families with children who will be 5 years old by September 1 can go to the school to register at their Connect to Kindergarten event (usually in February) or visit the school office soon after. It is important for families to register for school by June 1.
3. **Connect to Kindergarten events.** Encourage families to attend Connect events. Most schools have winter and spring events. At Connect events, families will: learn about the school, register for school, and meet staff and other parents. For event dates, go to: pps.net, then "departments" and "kindergarten."
4. **Convey the importance of good attendance in kindergarten.** Share attendance flyers with families and encourage them to start a school routine and earlier bedtime in mid-August. Good attendance in kindergarten is an indicator of later school success and graduation.
5. **School choice.** Transfer policy is changing. For the most current information, visit the Enrollment and Transfer Center website (listed below or call 503-916-3205).
6. **Full-day kindergarten.** Kindergarten classrooms are full-day (6 hours) and free to families. There are no half-day classrooms.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Enrollment and Transfer Center: 503-916-3205

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/enrollment-transfer/schoolchoice.htm>

Before and After School Care: 503-916-3230,

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/childcare/9904.htm>

Connect to Kindergarten dates and readiness tips: 503-916-3230

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/kindergarten/index.htm>

Kindergarten Attendance flyers: <http://web.multco.us/sun/chronic-absence-early-grades>

Special education and evaluations: 503-916-3426

Language support for families

- Spanish, 503-916-3582
- Russian, 503-916-3583
- Vietnamese, 503-916-3584
- Chinese, 503-916-3585
- Somali, 503-916-3586



Helpful Hints for Families and Caregivers for a Confident Start to school

- To help children feel confident about school, talk positively about school and listen to their thoughts about it. Playing school is fun and helpful too!
- Children need to feel confident about their abilities. You can help by praising their strengths, listening to their ideas, and teaching that all feelings are ok, but not all actions. For example, it's okay to be upset but not okay to hit.
- Create a school routine over the summer. Set a bedtime and stick to it. Sometimes it helps if your child draws visual reminders of the routine (brush teeth, pajamas, read, sleep) so you can refer to it together.
- Take your child with you to the store, the laundromat, the bank. Talk together about what you see, feel, and hear to build vocabulary and awareness.
- Visit your library branch and help your child get a free library card. Borrow books and read them together. Ask questions like:
 - What was your favorite part of the story? Least favorite part?
 - Halfway through, ask what they think will happen next?
- Foster independence by letting him/her make choices (do you want to wear red pants or blue?) and encourage her to try new things and solve problems.
- Prepare a "school spot" for your child in the home and supply papers, scissors, crayons, etc. Set aside a time each day for your child to draw and make things.
- Help your child learn to do the following before school starts:
 - Know his/her name and telephone number
 - Use the bathroom on their own and button and zip clothes
 - Play and share with other children.
- Visit the school: play on the playground, attend school events, and ask the school to add you to the mailing list for the school newsletter.
- Have your child practice writing his first name.
- Count everything! Count windows, napkins, fruit.

