

Welcome Parents!!


We will get started shortly. Before the meeting begins, please:

❖ Rename yourself with your first and last name

❖ Enter your name and your child's name in the chat box

❖ Make sure you are muted

❖ Once the meeting begins, enter any questions you may have in the chat box



Lake-Geauga United Head Start, Inc.

Transitioning to
Kindergarten

What is Kindergarten Transition?

Kindergarten Transition is the process of your child moving from the Head Start Pre-School classroom to the Public-School kindergarten classroom

- This will be one of the most significant changes your child will experience
- The process will be smoother if you prepare your child

Which School Will Your Child Attend?

- ❖ Call your local school district to see which elementary school your child will attend, this will depend on where you live.
- ❖ Find out how and when to register your child for kindergarten beginning in January/February.
 - some schools register in person and some schools require you to register on-line. Call or check website for more information.
 - Find out the date your child needs to be 5 years old by, not all school districts are the same.

Important Information/Documents To Have For Kindergarten Registration

1. Your Child's Birth certificate
2. Your Child's Immunization Record
3. Proof of Residency : Electric Bill, Phone Bill, Rental Agreement, Tax Statement, Voter Registration Card, Residency Verification Form
4. Your Child's IEP (Individual Education Plan) if you have one.
5. Any Legal Documents Pertaining to Family Situations such as Guardianship, Custody, etc.
6. Proof of Physical Examination (check with your school to see if there is a physical form you need to use.)

What if My Child Has a Special Need?

Head Start preschoolers receiving special education services may have to be re-assessed for school age services.

If your child has a disability or special need and received special education services while at Head Start, it is important to begin working with the local school team as early as possible. The school staff will arrange a transition meeting to discuss various issues such as programming, further testing and placement options.

- If your child has a speech plan with Head Start it will not carry over to Kindergarten, but it is important to discuss with the appropriate school personnel.
- If your child has an IEP the school district will transition your child

What Should I Do If My Child Has a Medical Condition or Takes Medication?

- It is the parent's responsibility to make sure the school is aware of all medical conditions, medications or nutritional needs your child may have.
- You will need to get the required paperwork from the elementary school for your doctor to fill out if applicable.
- Prior to the start of Kindergarten, follow-up on any failed Head Start medical screenings such a vision, hearing, etc.

How Has Head Start Helped to Prepare My Child for Kindergarten?

Your teachers use various methods in multiple areas to prepare your child for kindergarten using the School Readiness Goals that align with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, the Ohio Early Learning Development Standards, the Creative Curriculum and the DRDP assessment information. The following are just some of the Domain areas the teachers have worked on with your child and should be skills that you can continue to teach your child at home to prepare for kindergarten.

Approaches to Learning

Cognition: Including Math and Science

Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development: Including Health

Language and Literacy Development

History and Social Science

English Language Development

Visual and Performing Arts

Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten is where most children learn to read and write. Though some kids can do this before entering kindergarten, it is not required or expected. Being ready for kindergarten means having well-developed preschool skills, and being academically, socially, and physically ready for the transition. At Head Start your teachers work at helping your child to be ready for kindergarten.

Here are some signs that your child is ready for kindergarten:

Academic and pre-reading skills • Can retell a simple story • Speaks in complete sentences of 5-6 words • Writes name or recognizes letters in name • Recognizes the title of a book • Matches rhyming sounds • Counts to ten

Socially • Feels comfortable in a group • Asks for help when needed • Knows personal information (name, age, gender) • Follows simple instructions • Recognizes authority • Is able to share

Physically • Exhibits fine motor skills (holds pencil, traces shapes, buttons shirt, etc.) • Exhibits motor coordination (rides a bike with training wheels, hops, skips) • Manages bathroom needs

SHOWING YOUR CHILD THAT LEARNING IS FUN

You and your child can share many common activities that will provide them with vital learning experiences. Early learning takes place through your child's senses, let your child experiment and explore using as many of the senses as possible. Set a good example! If you're interested in learning, your child will become interested in learning too! Here are just a few ideas:

- ❖ Going to the library, learn how to check out books, attend a story time
- ❖ Read aloud to your child and ask them to re-tell the stories to you at home
- ❖ Drawing pictures and writing letters
- ❖ Visit interesting places such as parks, zoos, farms, fire stations, safety town, day camps, and museums
- ❖ Explore your local neighborhoods
- ❖ Cook together, this teaches math and science
- ❖ Shop together this teaches, pricing, identifying money, reading and math
- ❖ Planting a garden outside or taking care of house plants and talk about how they grow
- ❖ Helping with household chores (promotes responsibility and reliability)
- ❖ Practice tying shoes, zipping, and buttoning
- ❖ Practice using polite words in social situations (store, hair salon, restaurants, etc.)
- ❖ Walking, biking, or exercising (encourages and teaches about good health)
- ❖ Play games that have an educational value such as guessing games, number and word games
- ❖ Encourage your child to recite nursery rhymes and sing songs. Discuss how some words sound the same (rhyming)
- ❖ Establish a healthy diet with lots of water and nutritional meals and snacks
- ❖ Establish healthy habits such as washing hands and tooth brushing
- ❖ Encourage your child to play and do projects with other children to help promote cooperation and social skills
- ❖ Discuss any fears your child might have
- ❖ Shop for school supplies together

New Ohio State Bill Has Changed Kindergarten Age Requirements.

Children Now Need To Be 5 On or Before the First Day of School

Lake County School Districts

School District	Kindergarten start date
Fairport	No date yet
Kirtland	August 13, 2026
Madison	August 24, 2026
Mentor	August 17, 2026
Painesville City	August 26, 2026
Perry	August 17, 2026
Riverside	August 24, 2026
Willoughby-Eastlake	August 26, 2026
Wickliffe	No date yet

Geauga County School Districts

School District	Kindergarten start date
Berkshire	September 9, 2026
Cardinal	No date yet
Chardon	August 19, 2026 (may change)
Kenston	August 20, 2026
West Geauga	August 1, 2026

**** Most of this information was taken off district's websites. Families should double check with the school districts their child will be attending to be sure.**



Any Questions?