

# COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

## 2018

The start of kindergarten is an exciting time for young children and summer is a great time for parents to help their child with the transition to kindergarten and prepare them for their new experience as they start school. There are three areas to consider when thinking about transitioning your child to Kindergarten:

1. Fostering independence
2. Developing Social Skills
3. Encouraging learning through play

Reading books and telling stories together with your child is a great way to develop literacy, comprehension and alphabet knowledge. The local library is great place to go with your child to explore, join in a story hour and borrow books that you can take home.



The following is a summer reading list of some books you can read together with your child about starting Kindergarten:

- First Day Jitters** by Julie Danneberg
- Kindergarten Rocks** by Katie Davis
- Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes** by James Dean
- Wemberly Worried** by Kevin Henkes
- On the Way to Kindergarten** by Virginia Kroll
- The Kissing Hand** by Audrey Penn
- Kindergarten Diary** by Antoinette Portis
- Miss Kindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten** by Joseph Slate
- The Night Before Kindergarten** by Natasha Wing

Welcome to  
**Kindergarten!**

There are many things parents can do to prepare their child for Kindergarten. The following calendar provides fun, interactive activities that families can do together. These activities foster Physical Health and Motor Development, Language Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Science, along with many activities to support you and your child's transition to Kindergarten. We hope you find the information useful and informative.

**The Office of Family Learning wishes you and your child a happy and successful transition to Kindergarten!**

Summer Activities

AUGUST

Countdown to Kindergarten

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>1 Develop small muscle skills. Activities: Puzzles, create art using markers, safety scissors and crayons, Playdough</p>	<p>2 Begin to establish a school routine: *Bedtime *Wakeup *Dressing *Breakfast</p>	<p>3 Visit your community playground. Develop large muscle skills: *Climb *Run *Swing *Jump *Balance</p>	<p>4 Engage in Positive Relationships: Provide opportunities to play with other children independently: *Take turns, *Make decisions about their play</p>
<p>5 Read a book: Have your child hold the book and turn the pages. Point out the Title and the Author before reading.</p>	<p>6 Explore your backyard. Talk about plants and flowers and what they need to grow. Plant some seeds and care for it together. Watch it grow!</p>	<p>7 Concept of Time: Take pictures of your child doing daily routines. Print out the pictures and have your child put them in order.</p>	<p>8 Fun with Shapes: Have fun finding shapes around your house. Have your child describe them: *their color *how many sides they have. Ex: Peas are round like a ball</p>	<p>9 Alphabet Games: Find words in a book or magazine that begin with a specific letter. Ex: Can you find a word that starts with a "B"</p>	<p>10 Following Directions: Games are a fun way to practice. *Simon Says *Hokey Pokey *Red Light, Green Light *Head, Shoulders, knees and toes</p>	<p>11 All About Me: Have your child draw a self portrait. Point to and name the body parts and facial features.</p>
<p>12 Playing with Numbers: Count things around your house. Ex: Count how many chairs are around the table.</p>	<p>13 Tell Me a Story: Play simple back and forth games to practice: *eye contact *taking turns *talking using facial expressions *using inside versus outside voices</p>	<p>14 Observe and explore: Give your child a notebook to take on walks together. Draw pictures or write words describing what you observe.</p>	<p>15 Writing: Encourage your child to draw special pictures and write some letters. You can ask what the picture is and write the words for your child</p>	<p>16 Encourage Independence: Have your child dress him or herself. *Button *Zip *Put on socks and shoes</p>	<p>17 Feelings: Use photos, magazine pictures, or drawings that show different emotions and talk about how the person in the picture is feeling</p>	<p>18 Learning about Food: Cook with your child. Have your child participate in small tasks such as: *Setting the table *Pouring *Mashing *Mixing *Spreading</p>
<p>19 Play a listening game. Hide an object and give your child directions on how to find it.</p>	<p>20 Help your child make choices. Have them pick out their clothes.</p>	<p>21 Help your child make a plan to solve a problem and try it out.</p>	<p>22 Music: Use different sized items around the house to make music and different sounds.</p>	<p>23 Visit your local library. Check out a book that your child chooses</p>	<p>24 Shop for a new backpack and lunchbox with your child.</p>	<p>25 Literacy: When reading a book have your child match upper and lower case letters.</p>
<p>26 Pretend it is the first day of school. Practice ways to say "Bye"</p>	<p>27 Practice your phone number and address with your child.</p>	<p>28 Talk about who will be picking up your child at school.</p>	<p>29 Have your child draw a picture of their new school.</p>	<p>30 Talk about the start of school and how your child is feeling.</p>	<p>31 Visit your school's playground.</p>	

# **Welcome to the Office of Family Learning!**

You may already be familiar with our [Child Outreach](#) and [Parents as Teachers](#) programs, which offer screenings, support, playgroups, and resources to families with children ages birth to 5.

However, the Office of Family Learning seeks to support North Kingstown families through graduation. Below is a list of some programs and resources for school aged children. Feel free to contact a member of our staff with questions. We are here to help!

## **Quidnessett Family Center**

The [Quidnessett Family Center](#) provides comprehensive after school programming and support for students and families of Quidnessett Elementary School. In addition to after school programs, the Family Center offers family programs, and basic needs assistance to children. The Family Center works to offer opportunities for both students and families to connect with the Quidnessett School Community.

## **Hasbro Summer Learning Program**

Our summer learning program is offered to children entering grades 1-8. A partnership between NK Recreation and the School Department, this camp offers 6 weeks of enrichment offerings led by certified teachers. With significant scholarships available this program is a great low cost summer option that is fun and will help kids avoid the “summer slide.”

## **Blessings in a Backpack**

Blessings in a Backpack provides food on the weekend for students who experience food insecurity at home. Each week over 150 NKSD students are sent home with a bag containing two lunches, two snacks, and two breakfasts. Blessings in a Backpack operates in all North Kingstown elementary and middle schools. If your child would benefit from Blessings in a Backpack, please contact our office or the [Coordinator](#) at your child’s school.

## **Community Resources**

We know that life challenges don’t pay attention to your schedule and most families benefit from help at some point. The Office of Family Learning maintains an active list of helpful State and local [Community Resources](#). Whether your family is experiencing challenges with meeting needs for school supplies, school clothing, food, or housing - the Office of Family Learning will work to help connect you with available support resources.

## **[Contact](#)**

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