

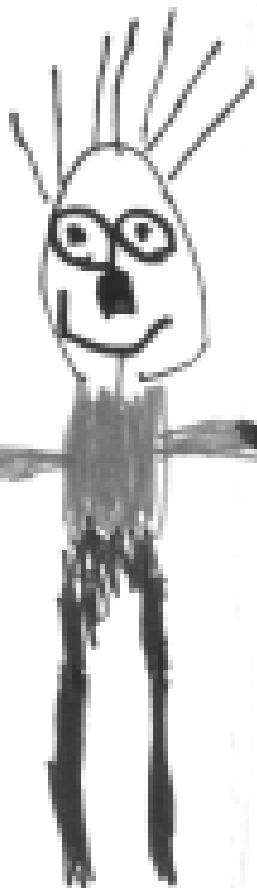


# it's time for school

What You Need to Know When Your Child Enters School for the First Time

“I am proud to welcome you and your family to the Maryland public school system. Our teachers, principals, parents, and communities take great pride in making our state’s school system one of the nation’s very best. We want your child—and every child—to have a great start in the classroom.”

Governor Martin O’Malley, Governor, State of Maryland




“The first day of school is a big step, both for you as a parent and for your child. It is an exciting time. It is also important for you as a parent to stay involved with your child’s education. This book will help you to get your child off to a happy and healthy start. Please read it carefully, and keep it within easy reach. I wish you and your child a great first year of school!”

Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

# going to school

Welcome to one of your child’s biggest adventures ever: starting school.



Preschool, prekindergarten and kindergarten provide a safe, happy place for your child to grow, learn and discover. It’s a place where your child can feel confident and secure while he or she constantly explores. Your child will probably have many questions about school. So will you.

## What Will My Child Learn?

These are the years when your child learns the foundational skills he or she will need to succeed.

When you meet with your child’s kindergarten teacher, he or she may talk about the seven “Domains of Learning.” What the teacher means is the areas, or “domains,” in which your child learns.

Each of these seven areas has its own important skills. The teacher will pay attention to how your child performs in class in each of these areas. This is how schools in Maryland measure what your child knows and is able to do.

*Every child is different.* Not all children learn things at the same ages. The State of Maryland has standards for what it is reasonable to expect a child to know and do when starting kindergarten. The kindergarten teacher will evaluate your child in the first few weeks of school, and talk with you in your scheduled parent/teacher conference about your child’s skills and abilities in the Domains of Learning. Here are some things to think about now as you prepare your child for school:

## The Seven Domains are:

- *Social and Emotional Development:* Does your child get along with others? Follow rules? Start an activity, work on it, and finish it?
- *Physical Development:* Does your child run, jump, climb, play ball? Button a shirt? Zip a jacket? Use scissors? Trace? Draw? Use good health and safety skills?
- *Language and Literacy:* Does your child talk and listen to adults and to other children? Speak clearly? Understand stories? Love books? Know some letters and numbers?
- *Mathematical Thinking:* Does your child sort things by color and shape? Can he or she count?
- *Scientific Thinking:* Does your child explore? Look, listen, touch, smell and taste to get information? Talk about how things are alike or different?
- *Social Studies:* Does your child talk about himself or herself, the family and the community? Talk about how people are similar and different?
- *The Arts:* Does your child dance? Draw? Paint? Sing? Make music? Play make-believe?

Your child’s teacher will talk with you about your child’s strengths and weaknesses, and work with you to support your child’s learning in each of these areas.

*Your Prekindergartner.* Four-year-olds tend to be busy and active. They like to test limits on their behavior. Children at this age need help in understanding the difference between right and wrong, and in cooperating and making friends with others. Some things your child should know and be able to do before coming to prekindergarten include:

- Choosing and following routines, such as hearing a story before bedtime
- Beginning to recognize his or her first name in print
- Knowing how to ask an adult for help
- Recognizing a favorite book by its cover
- Being curious about letters, words, numbers, and counting
- Repeating parts of rhymes or some words from songs
- Following basic two- or three-step directions, such as, “Please get your coat, put it on, and stand by the door.”
- Listening to a story when read aloud
- Handling books carefully
- Knowing and following basic rules, such as putting away toys

*Your Kindergartner.* Five-year-olds tend to be calmer and more independent than four-year-olds. But they still need guidance and routines. They may recognize a few letters and words, and pretend to read and write. They love to listen to stories, especially those with a lot of action and repetition. Skills your child will need in order to do well in kindergarten include:

- Getting along with and respecting others, making friends, and having confidence
- Being physically strong and coordinated
- Communicating with adults and other children
- Noticing the connection between written letters and the sounds they make (for example, how the letter “m” makes the “mmmm” sound)
- Showing an interest in stories and reading
- Seeing the connection between a number and the quantity it represents
- Recognizing color patterns and types of shapes (such as a square)

- Being able to place items in a certain order (such as largest to smallest)
- Being aware of the roles of people in his or her family and community, as well as animal and plant life
- Feeling comfortable expressing himself or herself through painting, drawing, clay, etc.

#### **What Will School Be Like?**


Your child’s classroom may look a lot different than the kindergarten that you remember. Instead of desks in a row, there may be special learning centers around the room for activities in art, reading, math and other areas. Activities often differ from teacher to teacher and school to school, but they are always built around the Domains of Learning, with prekindergarten focusing more on language and literacy. Every day, your child will develop his or her own skills while making friends and interacting with others.

Your child’s teacher is a trained professional who knows how young children learn, and who also understands that no two children are alike. Think of the teacher as your partner in helping your child to learn. In school the teacher will build on what you are teaching your child at home, and at home you will build on what your child learns at school. Start the habit of staying in touch with the teacher about your child’s progress and challenges. Communication between you and your child’s teacher will be perhaps the most important part of your child’s education!

#### **How Do I Enroll My Child?**

Maryland law requires that all children who meet the age requirement for kindergarten enroll in either a public school or a state-approved nonpublic school, unless the child is enrolled in a full-time licensed child care center, Head Start program, or family child care program (child care in a state-licensed home), before enrolling in first grade. Parents or guardians also have the option of home schooling their children, as long as they register with their local school system and meet all requirements.





## ParentTips

**ParentTips are simple things parents can do during everyday moments to improve their child's school readiness and success:**

1. Read to your child every day. Find books with simple stories, and help your child start to think about what he or she sees and hears. Talk with him about what happens first, next and last in the story.
2. Play "what's that sound" and let your child try to guess where a sound is coming from.
3. Make up characters and act out their roles. You and your child can pretend to "be" anyone!
4. Let your child tell you a made-up story during bath time, dinnertime or any time.
5. Play outside! Run, jump, play tag or hide-and-seek, or play ball.
6. Make things together with scissors and glue. A shoebox makes a great pretend dollhouse or car. Old socks make fun puppets. A big cardboard box can be a clubhouse.
7. Let your child "help" with chores by using a broom, dusting a table or sorting laundry by colors. These can be fun ways for children to learn.
8. Make (and play!) musical instruments. Use paper towel tubes, old pots, plastic pails, tin cans (with no sharp edges), cardboard, and anything else handy. Play along with the radio, or give a "concert."
9. While you're on a walk or going to the store, help your child to look around and explore. Watch the big machines at a construction site and talk about what they are doing. Let your child feel the bark of different trees. Count the different kinds of cars and talk about what makes them different.
10. Have regular times for meals and snacks, so that your child will grow up eating on a healthy schedule. Eat healthy foods yourself as an example for your child.

The State of Maryland has recently changed the age requirements for prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade, and this may affect your child. (See Maryland's Rules On Enrollment.)

To find your child's elementary school and the dates for registration, call the school system's central office or visit its website.

If this is the first time you are enrolling your child in school, call the school and ask what you must bring. Most schools ask that you bring the following:

- **Birth Certificate.** The state requires that you bring your child's original birth certificate as proof of age.
- **Health Information.** All students should receive a physical examination by a doctor or a nurse practitioner no more than nine months before, or six months after, they enroll. Maryland also requires that your child have a minimum number of immunizations before he or she can be admitted to school. To enroll in school, you should have proof that your child received the following immunizations:
  - 4 doses of Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus (DTaP/DTP) vaccine
  - 3 doses of Polio vaccine
  - 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine
  - 2 doses of Measles vaccine for kindergarten students; one (1) dose is required for prekindergarten students
  - 1 dose each of Mumps, Rubella, and Chickenpox (Varicella) vaccine or proof of disease.

Your prekindergarten child will also need at least 1 dose each of the H. Influenzae, Type B (HIB) vaccine and the PCV7 Pneumococcal Conjugate (Prevnar™).

- **Proof of Custody/Guardianship** may be required.
- **Residency Information**, including a copy of deed, closing documents or escrow papers, or a lease/rental agreement, is required.





### **Maryland's Rules On Enrollment**

The age for school attendance in Maryland for the 2007 – 2008 school year and each year thereafter is as follows:

#### **Prekindergarten**

A child admitted to the prekindergarten program in the public schools must be 4 years old or older on September 1 of the school year in which the child applies for entrance.

#### **Kindergarten**

A child admitted to the kindergarten program in the public schools must be 5 years old or older on September 1 of the school year in which the child applies for entrance.

#### **First Grade**

A child admitted to the first grade in the public schools must be 6 years old or older on September 1 of the school year in which the child applies for entrance.

*Prekindergarten:* may be available for your 4 year-old. For more information, check with your local school system.

*Early Admission:* At the request of a parent or guardian, a local board of education may choose to allow children younger than the age requirement to attend prekindergarten, kindergarten, or first grade. Consult your local school system about its policies regarding early admission.

*Late Admission:* Parents or legal guardians may ask for a one-year "Level of Maturity Waiver" for a kindergarten-aged child if they believe that a delay in attending kindergarten is in the best interest of the child. The child must attend kindergarten the following year. For more information, check with your local school system.

It is important that you satisfy all of the state and local requirements for enrolling your child, so that he or she will be able to attend school as planned. Be sure to take care of all the requirements early enough so that you won't have to rush in order for your child to start school.

All public schools in Maryland are required by law to provide access and educational opportunity for students with disabilities. If you have questions about how your child's school will meet these needs, talk with the school principal.

### **What Does "No Child Left Behind" Mean for My Child?**

The No Child Left Behind Act is a federal law, passed in 2001, designed to improve student achievement. No Child Left Behind requires public schools to make sure that all students reach certain levels of learning at each grade level. No Child Left Behind also has requirements for what students must know before they graduate. To make certain that students meet these federal requirements, schools in Maryland give statewide tests at selected grade levels in reading/language and math. It is important that your child get a strong start in school right from the beginning, so that he or she can meet these requirements.

To find out where to learn more about No Child Left Behind in Maryland, visit <http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE>.

If your child's school does not meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind or make adequately yearly progress, your child may be eligible to enroll in another school or could receive free tutoring. Charter schools, magnet schools, and transfers are some of the ways to choose a public school for your child.

For more information on school choice, visit: [www.ed.gov/parents/schools/choice](http://www.ed.gov/parents/schools/choice).

### **How Will My Child Get To School?**

To make the most of school and help your child to learn, he or she should attend school every day and be on time. Starting school may mean that your child will ride a school bus. Or you may need to walk with or drop your child off at school each day.

*Riding the School Bus.* Check with your local school to find out if your child is eligible for school bus transportation. If your child will be riding the school bus, shortly before school starts you will receive details from the school system about the bus route, time, and stop location. You are responsible for getting your child to and from the bus stop. You will need to have your child at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the bus is due, because the exact pickup time may vary depending on traffic and weather. An adult should meet your pre-kindergartner or kindergartner at the bus stop at the end of the day. Be sure your child knows who to look for when getting off the bus. You will also receive information on school bus safety. While your child's teacher will review this information with your child, be sure to discuss riding the bus safely with your child and be sure he or she understand the rules.

*Walking and Drop-Offs.* A responsible adult or older sibling should walk your pre-kindergartner or kindergartner to and from school every day. As you walk to school, show him or her the best route, keeping in mind traffic, streets to cross, and other safety concerns. Impress on your child the need to go directly to school and directly home after school. Talk with your child about being safe on the street and not talking to or obeying strangers. If you drive your child to school, be sure to drop your child off on time, prior to the start of school.

### **What About School Closings?**

Sometimes bad weather or other emergencies make it necessary to close schools, to delay the opening of schools, or to send students home early. School personnel will work with the weather authorities, local officials, and the police to look at the weather and road conditions and decide if school should be canceled or open late. School closings and delays are for the safety of students.

Television and radio stations will carry messages about school closures and delays, beginning early in the morning. When schools are closed for the day or close early, community and after-school activities are canceled.

Please help us to keep things running smoothly by not calling your child's school to ask about closures.

In case of other emergencies, it is important that the school have an emergency phone number where you can be contacted, and the name and phone number of another adult (with his or her permission) who can care for your child if you cannot be reached. Please make sure that the school has this information, and let the school know if the phone numbers change.

### **How Do I Find Before- and After-School Care?**

The State of Maryland requires that all children under eight years of age be supervised at all times by a parent or guardian, a child care provider, or a babysitter who is at least 13 years old. Choose child care providers who are licensed by and registered with the Maryland Child Care Administration. If you work outside the home, your child may need before- or after-school care.

Quality child care is important! You can call LOCATE Child Care, a free service of the Maryland Committee for Children that provides referrals and information to parents about child care, at 410-625-1111 or [www.mdchildcare.org](http://www.mdchildcare.org). LOCATE counselors can help you to find a child care program that meets your needs for location, hours of care, and the age of your child.

Choosing child care is a personal decision, and LOCATE counselors will work with you to help you make comfortable choices. Try to look for child care programs that offer activities created especially for pre-kindergartners and kindergartners, that invite parents to be involved, and that will work closely with your child's school.





# your healthy

**A** healthy child is able to start school ready to learn. But a child who is hungry or tired or feeling sick cannot give school the energy and attention it takes to learn and grow. It's one more reason why keeping your child healthy matters so much.

Be sure your child visits the doctor for regular check-ups or well visits. At these visits the doctor will check your child's growth and development, as well as keep your child's immunizations up to date. All students new to Maryland schools are required by law to have a physical examination by a doctor or a nurse practitioner no more than nine months before, or six months after, they enroll. If you are unable to visit your child's doctor because you do not have health insurance, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) can help. For more information or to apply, call 877-KIDS-NOW or visit [www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/mchp](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/mchp).


Keeping your child healthy means much more than making regular visits to the doctor. For healthy growth, your child needs:

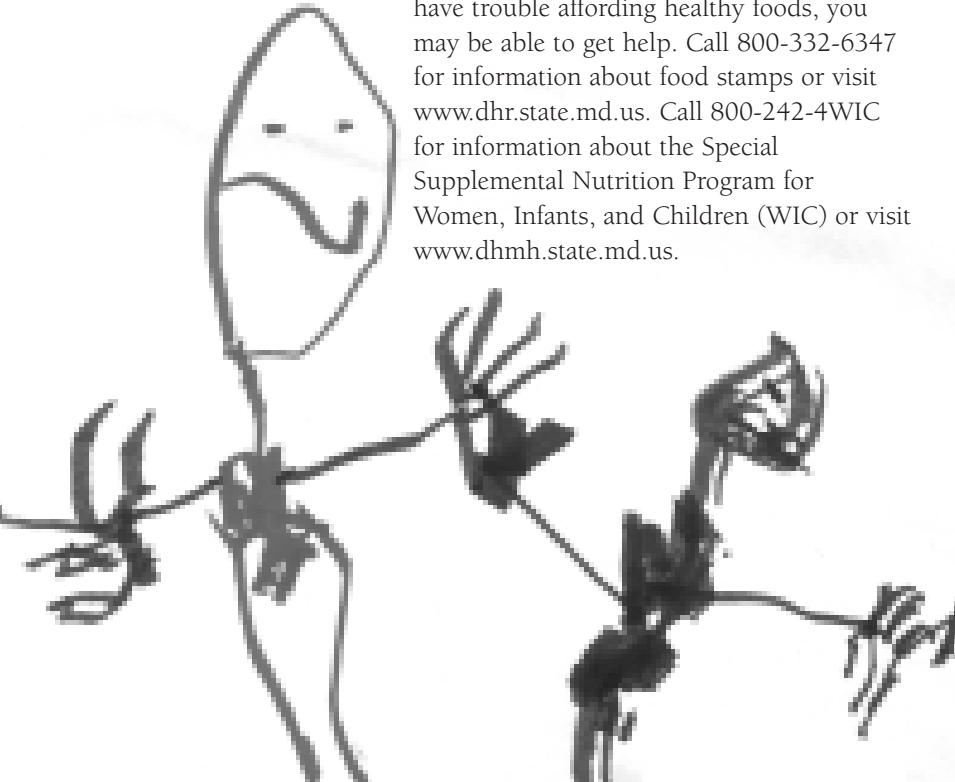
- **Healthy Food.** Children learn and do their best in school when they eat a variety of healthy foods in child-sized portions. Healthy foods include fruits and vegetables, breads and cereal, yogurt, milk, and meats. Your child should have a healthy meal before he or she leaves for school. Most elementary schools offer a healthy school breakfast and lunch every day. If your child has food allergies or a special diet, be sure to let the teacher know.





# child

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- **Exercise.** Your child needs plenty of exercise in order to be healthy and strong. School-age children need to walk, run, jump and actively play every day.
  - **Sleep.** Most five-year-olds need 10 to 12 hours of sleep a day. A good night's sleep will help your child to be alert and active in school.
  - **Hearing, Vision, and Dental Screening.** A child who has trouble seeing or hearing will eventually have problems in school. That is why your child's school will schedule a routine hearing and vision screening to try to detect any problems early. Your child's dental health is just as important. Have a dentist examine your child before he or she starts kindergarten, and at regular intervals afterward.
  - **Healthy Growth and Development.** Every child is different. Children develop and learn at different rates. In fact, not all children learn things at the same ages! If, however, you are concerned about your child's development or think your child may have a disability, talk with your child's doctor, the school principal or call the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program at 800-535-0182 ([http://cte.jhu.edu/dse\\_eis/about-mitp.html](http://cte.jhu.edu/dse_eis/about-mitp.html)). The school can help you and your child through the screening process. If your child is diagnosed with a disability, Maryland public schools make every attempt to educate him or her alongside children who do not have disabilities. Special class placement is made only when educating the student in a general class cannot be done satisfactorily.



Children from low-income families may eat school meals free or at a reduced cost. Call your school for more information. If you have trouble affording healthy foods, you may be able to get help. Call 800-332-6347 for information about food stamps or visit [www.dhr.state.md.us](http://www.dhr.state.md.us). Call 800-242-4WIC for information about the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or visit [www.dhmf.state.md.us](http://www.dhmf.state.md.us).

- **Immunizations.** Immunizations (also called vaccinations or shots) help to protect your child against serious illnesses or death. Maryland requires that your child have certain immunizations before he or she can be admitted to school. To attend school, you will need to prove that your child has received the following immunizations and doses:

**Total Number of Doses (Shots) of Each Vaccine Required for School Entry**

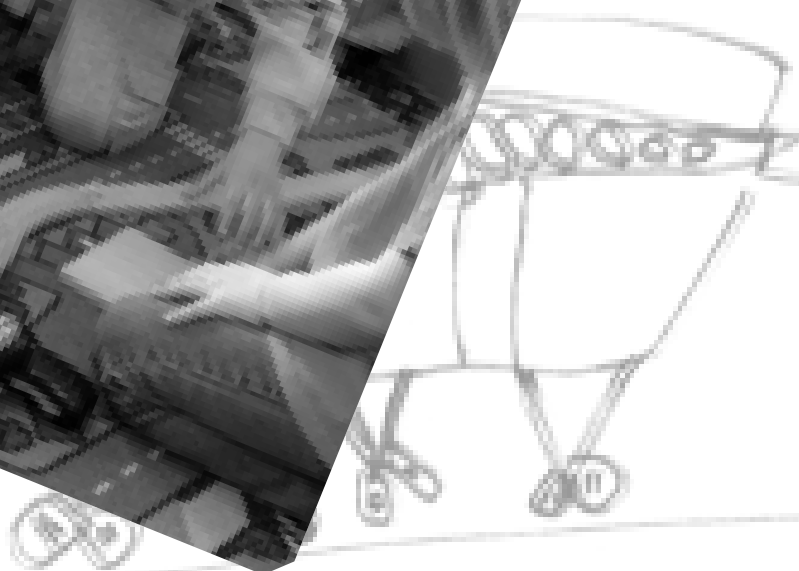
	<b>Preschool/Prekindergarten (4 years)</b>	<b>Kindergarten (5 years)</b>
Hepatitis B	3	3
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertusis H. (DTaP/DTP/DT/TD)	4	4
Influenza Type B (Hib)	At least 1 dose after 12 months of age	Not Required
Polio	3	3
Measles	1	2
Mumps	1	1
Rubella(German measles)	1	1
Varicella (Chickenpox)	1	1
PCV7 Pneumococcal Conjugate (Prevnar™)	1	Not Required

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)

Your child should have received most of his or her immunizations during the first 2 years of life, starting at birth, during routine doctor visits. Your child may need to get additional immunizations before enrolling in school. Vaccines are available through your child's primary care provider and local health department. If you are worried about the cost, ask your doctor about the VFC ("Vaccines for Children") program. For more information on the recommended ages for all immunizations, visit [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us).

**Childhood Illnesses.** There are times during the school year when your child may get sick. If your child is sick, it is best to keep him or her at home. This prevents the spread of germs and protects your child, as well as other students and school staff.

If your child is sick, be sure to call your child's doctor, who can help you determine the best treatment. Also call the school and tell them that your child will be absent. The State of Maryland has rules for how long children should be kept at home when they have common childhood illnesses. The school nurse can help you understand these rules. See **Common Childhood Illnesses** for more information.



## Common Childhood Illnesses

Illness	Symptoms*	How long to keep child at home?
Chicken Pox (varicella)	Fever and itchy, bumpy skin rash. Rash will crust or scab.	Keep at home until rash is dry or crusted
Common Cold	Runny nose, watery eyes, sneezing, chills, sore throat, cough, low-grade fever lasting 2 to 7 days.	Keep at home until fever is gone. Encourage your child to wash hands often and to cover mouth/nose when sneezing/coughing.
Ear Infections	Ear pain + fever	Keep at home until fever is gone.
Fever	Oral temperature of 100° or more	Keep at home for all fevers of 100° or more
Fifth Disease	Rash " Slapped cheek", sore rash elsewhere	Keep at home until diagnosed and treated by physician
Flu (Influenza)	Fever + chills + headaches + pain	Keep at home for the duration of the illness
German Measles (Rubella)	Small rash + high fever	Keep at home for 7 days after onset of rash
Head Lice	Scalp itch + "white specks" (eggs) on hair, crawling lice seen on neck and behind ears	Keep at home for at least 24 hours after treatment
Measles (Rubeola)	Small rash + high fever + chills + cough	Keep at home for 5 days after rash
Mumps	Fever + swelling & tenderness of parotid glands	Keep at home for 9 days after swelling
Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)	Eye redness + discharge (watery or yellow)	Keep at home until diagnosed and treated by physician. Keep at home for first 24 hours on antibiotics
Ringworm (Tinea)	Skin redness, itch, rash	Keep at home until diagnosed and treated by physician
Scabies	Skin itch and red line streaks	Keep at home until diagnosed and treated by physician
Stomach Illness	Diarrhea or vomiting	Keep children at home for 24 hours after end of diarrhea or vomiting
Strep Throat	Sore throat + high fever, may also have cough, nausea, stomachache.	Keep at home until diagnosed and treated by physician. Keep at home for first 24 hours on antibiotics
Whooping cough (Pertussis)	URT symptoms or cough	Keep at home for first 5 days on antibiotics

\*Symptoms are signs and complaints as a result of an illness.

Reviewed by: DHMH





# parents are



You have been your child's teacher since birth. Now that your child is in school, there is another teacher to help you.

But you still play a very important part in teaching your child. Everything you do with your child at home will affect how your child performs at school.

## How Can I Prepare My Child To Start School?

Starting school is a big change for you and your child. It's natural for you both to feel a little nervous. Here are some ways to help prepare your child to start school, so that you can both get the most out of this exciting time:

- **Talk with your child.** Talk about school as a happy, friendly place where your child will have fun and be safe. Answer your child's questions about school. The more your child knows what school will be like, the better he or she will feel about it. Give cheerful and reassuring answers to your child's questions. If your child is worried or afraid, reassure him or her that everything will be okay. If there are things you don't know about school, call the school and ask.
- **Keep a positive attitude.** Say positive things to your child about starting school. Let your child experience school as something brand-new and exciting. If you have concerns about school, share them with the teacher or principal, not with your child.
- **Teach your child good habits for school.** Start habits at home that will help your child in school. Let your child dress himself or herself. Set a regular clean-up time for putting things away. Make your child responsible for a few chores at home. Have meals, baths and storytime at set times each day.

- **Visit the School.** Your school may host an event for parents and entering kindergartners prior to the start of school. During this time you and your child can tour the school and meet your child's teacher. This will help your child become familiar with the school and the classroom. It will also allow you to discuss any concerns or questions regarding the start of school with your child's teacher. Contact your local school to find out more. If your child's school does not offer an event like this, you and your child are welcome to visit the school at any time.

## How Should I Handle the First Day of School?

The best thing you can do for your child on the first day of school is to be positive and supportive. Remind your child how much there is to look forward to at school, and how the teacher will always be there to help. Make sure that your child has everything he or she needs when leaving for school, so that the day can go smoothly.

If you bring your child to school yourself on the first day, leave as quickly as you can and let the teacher start the day's activities. Your child needs to know that the school day has begun. But reassure your child that you will see him or her at the end of the day.

## How Do I Communicate With the School?

You'll find that kindergarten offers much less day-to-day contact with parents than you may have had with prekindergarten. But it is still very important for you to stay involved. Read everything the school sends home to you. Go to every scheduled parent/teacher conference, and talk with the teacher about what your child is doing at school and at home. Contact the teacher with questions or to share information when you need to. You are also welcome to visit the school and your child's classroom at any time. To be sure that your child's teacher will have time to talk with you, call the school office to arrange a specific time and date.

# teachers too!

## Can I Get Involved With My Child's School?

Schools depend on support from parents. Your child's school will welcome your getting involved. Call the school to find out what you can do. A few of the ways you can help are:

- Assisting a teacher in the classroom
- Visiting classes as a speaker
- Mentoring or tutoring students
- Being a crossing guard
- Working in the school library
- Helping with computers
- Being a part of the PTA
- Fundraising

## What Can I Do At Home to Help My Child Learn?

Talk with your child. Ask what he or she did in school each day. Listen carefully. Find out what he or she likes about school, and where he or she has problems or questions.

Children learn all the time, not just in school. Every day offers "teachable moments" when you as a parent can help your child to learn. It's easy, it's fun, and it works! For dozens of other helpful suggestions for everyday learning, visit [www.readyatfive.org](http://www.readyatfive.org).

## More ParentTips

11. Keep an eye on your child's vision. It can be hard to tell if a young child is having trouble seeing. Watch for signs such as stumbling, squinting, or holding books too close. If you think there might be a problem, see an eye doctor.
12. Be clear with your child about how you expect him or her to behave: saying "please" and "thank you," holding an adult's hand when crossing the street, not talking to strangers, taking proper care of toys, sharing, etc.
13. Give your child chances to play, both alone and with others. Make arrangements for safe playtime with other children.
14. Using a doll, pretend that you and your child are taking care of a baby. Say, "Oh, the baby is crying. I think we need to change baby's diaper," and show your child what to do. Or, pretend that the two of you are friends having coffee together. Set the table, sit down, and start a conversation. You can ask, "So, tell me something that made you laugh this week."
15. Play games with a jump rope. Lay it out straight on the ground and have your child pretend to "walk the tightrope" in the circus. Once your child can do this, have him or her hop along the rope. Then put the rope in a circle and have your child hop into and out of it, first with both feet and then on one foot. The two of you can keep making up new tricks.
16. Pretend to be in a restaurant where you take turns writing down each other's orders. Also, point out the words on stop signs, billboards, cereal boxes, etc.
17. Help your child to become aware of sounds in letters. Play games: "What starts with 'm'?" "What ends with 't'?"
18. Ask your child to tell you about what he or she did today. Listen closely and be interested!

For more ParentTips visit [www.readyatfive.org](http://www.readyatfive.org).



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Dixie Stack, Director, Curriculum  
Rolf Grafwallner, Coordinator, Early Learning Office

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## **find out more**

### **Statewide Resources**

#### ***Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)***

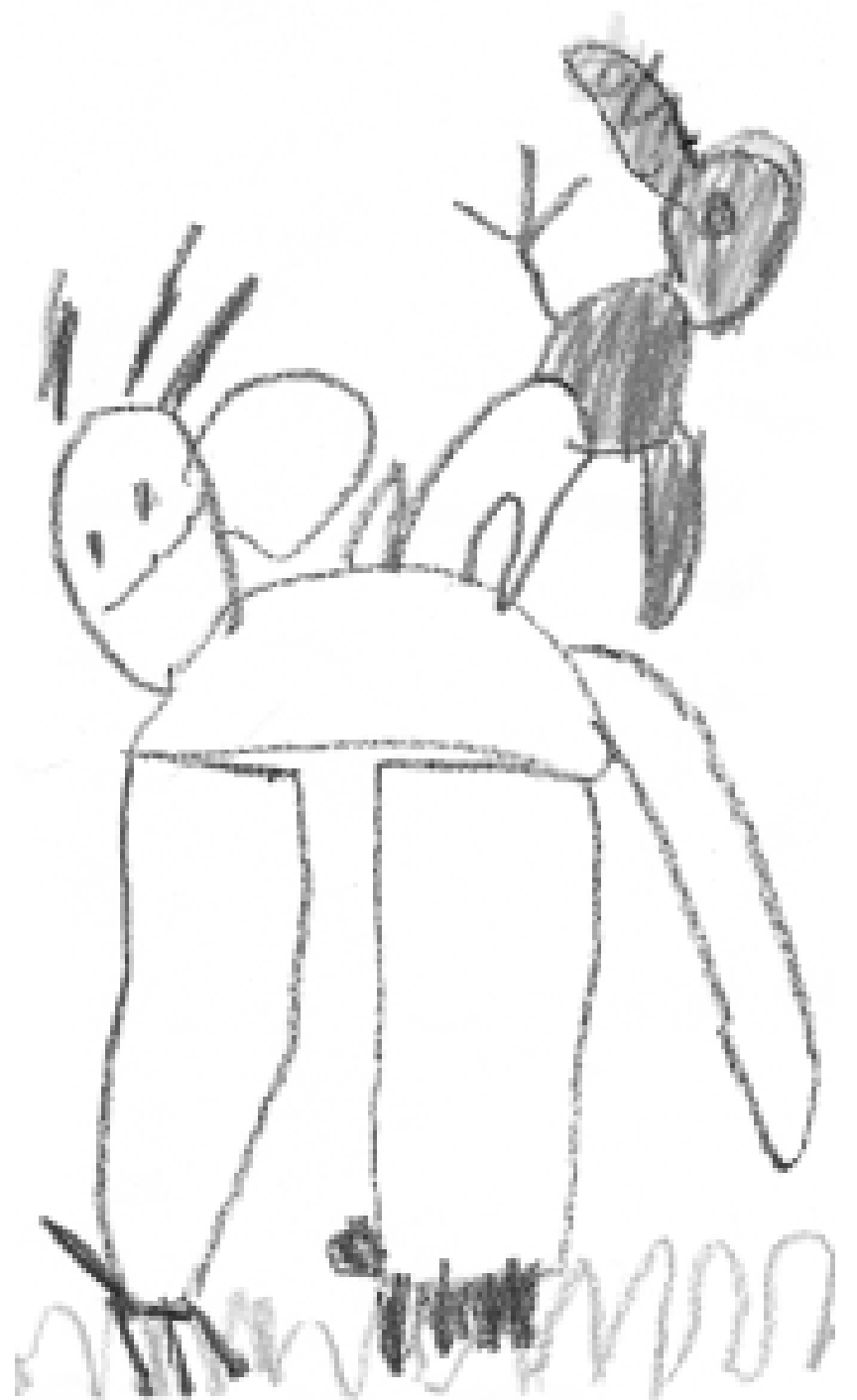
The state governmental body in charge of public education in Maryland. More information about MSDE Early Childhood Initiatives is available at [www.mdk12.org/instruction](http://www.mdk12.org/instruction). More information about early intervention and screening can be obtained from the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program at 800-535-0182 or <http://cte.jhu.edu/dse-eis/about-mitp.html>.

Website:  
<http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE>  
Phone: 410-767-0335

#### ***Ready At Five***

A statewide nonprofit partnership dedicated to helping young children to succeed in school. Ready At Five's "ParentTips" – free tips for parents on helping young children to learn – are available on its Web site.

Website: <http://www.readyatfive.org>  
Phone: 410-727-6290





Maryland State Department of  
Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
[www.marylandpublicschools.org](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org)  
410-767-0600  
888-246-0016  
410-333-6442 (TTY)



111 South Calvert Street  
Suite 1720  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Phone 410-727-6290  
Fax 410-727-7699  
Email [ra5@mbrrt.org](mailto:ra5@mbrrt.org)  
[www.readyatfive.org](http://www.readyatfive.org)

