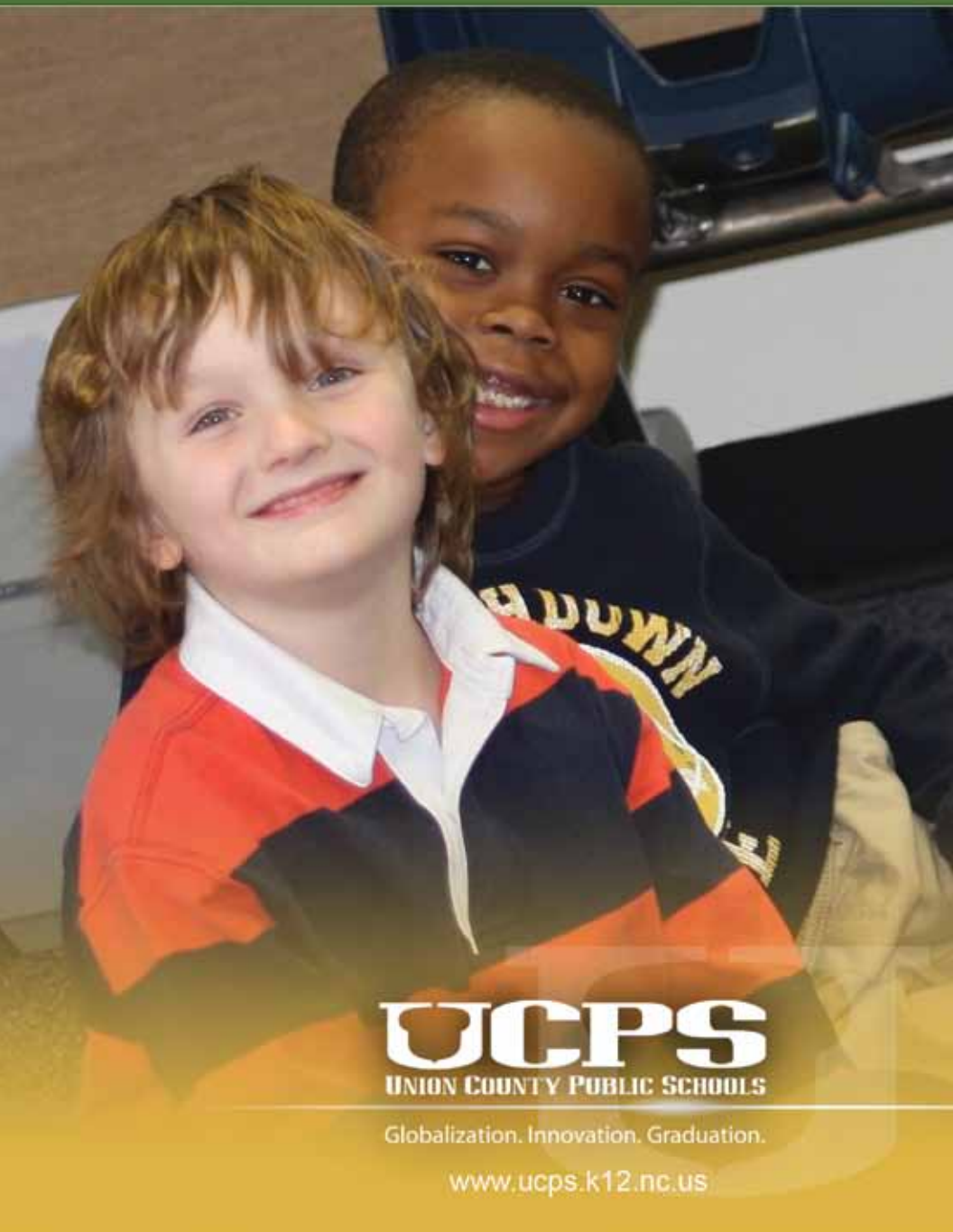


Everything you need to know about

# Your Child Entering Kindergarten

# 2011



**UCPS**  
UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Globalization. Innovation. Graduation.

[www.ucps.k12.nc.us](http://www.ucps.k12.nc.us)

# Prepare your Child for...



Entering kindergarten is an exciting adventure for your child and your family. Kindergarten is the foundation for developing new skills and future learning. During the kindergarten year, students will develop independence, confidence, relationships, behaviors, and attitudes that will ensure a positive school experience. We want this transition to be a smooth and happy one.

Union County Public Schools is dedicated to providing a strong curriculum that is aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Our goal is to engage children in the learning process, provide them with a sense of accomplishment, and help them develop a love of learning.

Mutual understanding and confidence between teachers and parents are essential to the happiness and sense of security of the kindergarten child. Educating a child must be a collaborative effort between home and school. Neither group can be as effective without the help of the other, and we look forward to joining with you in the educational journey of your child.

This booklet has been designed to provide information and answers to help you prepare your child to begin school. It also suggests some ways you can assist your child in adjusting to school.

We look forward to partnering with you as your child enters this new phase of life. Welcome to Union County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mary Ellis in black ink.

Dr. Mary Ellis  
Deputy Superintendent  
of Instructional Programs

Handwritten signature of Tom Bulla in black ink.

Dr. Tom Bulla  
Director  
of Elementary Education

# About Your Child

Place your child's photo here.

I am \_\_\_\_ feet \_\_\_\_ inches tall.

I weigh \_\_\_\_ pounds.

My pets are named \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite food is \_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite movie is \_\_\_\_\_.





My favorite activities are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

My kindergarten teacher's name is:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

My school name is:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

# A Parent's Checklist

## What do I need to bring with me to enroll my child in Kindergarten?

-  Your child's birth certificate to verify he or she will be 5 years old on or before August 31 – birth certificates can be obtained from county officials in the county where the child was born.
  
-  A certified copy of the child's immunization record that includes a doctor's signature or a clinic's stamp as proof the vaccines were given. The following immunizations are required by law for kindergarten enrollment:
  - 5 DTaP/DT shots (a fifth dose is not required IF the fourth dose was given after the child's 4th birthday)
  - 4 Polio shots – IPV ( a fourth dose is not required IF the third dose was given after the child's 4th birthday)
  - 2 MMR shots (the first dose should be given on or after the child's 1st birthday, with the second dose given before entering school)
  - 3 Hepatitis B shots (the third dose must be given after the child is at least 24 weeks old)
  - Hib shots (at least one given between a child's 1st birthday and his or her 5th birthday. It is not required after age 5)
  - 1 Varicella shot (a second dose is highly recommended before school entrance if the child has not had chicken pox)
  
-  A completed Kindergarten Health Assessment Report (KHA) Report – This form is online and available at any school. The form must be signed by a doctor and must include all of the information requested on the form.
  
-  Two documents that provide Proof of Residence from the following list:
  - A notarized rental agreement or purchase agreement on a residence
  - Utility bills (telephone, gas, electricity) that list the correct name and address
  - A driver's license and automobile registration
  - An automobile insurance policy
  - A property insurance policy
  - An income tax W-2 form
  - A property tax bill

# Prepare your Child for Reading



## Help your child gain an understanding of reading concepts by:

- Providing a wide variety of books and print materials for your child to look at and listen to while you read to them, including nursery rhymes and fairy tales.
- Taking your child to the library and helping him/her select and check out books.
- Helping your child learn how to open a book, turn the pages, look at the pictures and talk about what he/she sees in those illustrations.
- Providing a special place for your child to keep his/her books and a place that is comfortable and quiet for him/her to sit and read them.
- Making reading with your child a part of your daily routine.
- Allowing your child to select the stories you read together. (Remember that children love to hear their favorite stories read aloud to them over and over again!)
- Pointing out words you see every day (cereal and food labels, restaurants, STOP & EXIT signs).
- Bringing books for your child to read in the car when you are running errands.
- Letting your child see you as parents reading your own books, magazines or newspapers, too!

# Prepare your Child for Writing



**Your child's first attempt at writing may be scribbles. Encourage and praise this work!!! He/she is practicing communicating in this way. Drawings are also a means of communication through writing. Learning to communicate on paper is a way to share thoughts and ideas. It helps children make connections between the printed and spoken word.**

## **Parents can help their children with writing by:**

- Inviting your child to tell you about drawings or to “read” his/her notes.
- Praising efforts. Respond to the message, not how it looks.
- Providing a space for writing and materials to use (crayons, pencils, paper).
- Saying “Tell me about your story,” rather than “What is this?”.
- Letting your child see you write and telling your child why you are doing it (grocery list, note to your spouse, etc.).
- Having a place, such as the refrigerator, to display your child's writing.
- Retelling family stories. Let your child tell the best part.
- Helping your child learn to write his/her first name or part of it with proper upper/lower case letters (example: Sara, not sara or SARA). Your child will be so proud, and the kindergarten teacher will be grateful! Try making name/ words with letters out of a magazine.

# Prepare your Child for Mathematics

## a family's guide

Prekindergarten–Grade 12



Family members play an important role in their children's attitudes toward, and success with, mathematics. This award-winning guide summarizes what today's mathematics classroom is like, offers tips on how family members can help their children have a positive attitude and enjoy mathematics, and presents practical ways to discuss and do math at home together during everyday situations. Ideas are presented from the elementary and prekindergarten years all the way through high school. <http://illuminations.nctm.org/NCTMResources.aspx>

*'Everything depends on the quality of the experience which is had.'* John Dewey

### Help your child gain an understanding of number through:

- Playing board games
- Playing blocks to visualize quantity
- Recognizing numerals in the form of dots on dominoes, and other items with dot configurations.
- Reading "counting books" with your child such as those by Eric Carle, Stuart Murphy, just to name a few...
- Counting sets of objects with your child (e.g. number of plates for setting the table, number of cards for each player in a game, number of crayons in a small box of "8", and counting pennies in a bank, etc.)
- Listening to counting songs and rhymes such as: One, two buckle my shoe; three, four shut the door...

### Help your child understand the physical world with geometric ideas (e.g. shape, orientation, spatial relations) and describe it with corresponding vocabulary by:

- Naming shapes in the environment and pointing them out to your child regularly (circles, squares, triangles, rhombi (diamond shapes).
- Working with puzzles.
- Building blocks of all shapes and sizes.
- Providing materials that will help your child develop relationships, like longer and shorter, lighter and heavier, bigger and smaller (legos, links, etc.).

# Prepare your Child to be Independent



## Preparing your child to be Independent

- Work with your child to learn to snap, zip, button, and tie so that he/she can take care of toileting needs and put on shoes and coats independently at school. If your child has not yet mastered all of these skills, help your child dress in clothing he/she is able to manage.
- Help your child learn how to wash hands, use a fork and spoon, blow his/her nose, and use the toilet independently.
- Give your child responsibility for simple jobs, such as setting the table, sorting socks, or putting away his/her toys and belongings.
- Provide your child with opportunities to make decisions. “What book would you like to read?”; “Do you want to wear your red shorts or your blue ones?”.

# Prepare your Child for the First Day of School



**The following suggestions will help you and your child get the school year off to a great start!**

- Set a positive tone by talking about how much fun learning and school can be.
- Share fun and positive experiences you remember having when you went to school.
- Help your child adjust to schedule changes (if needed) by setting up a routine for going to bed and getting up earlier at least a week before school starts.
- Make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast at home or arrives at school with enough time to eat breakfast provided at school.
- Consider allowing your child to ride the school bus on the first day. You could meet the bus at school and walk your child to class if you have a desire to do so.
- Label all of your child's personal belongings (coat, lunch box, etc) ahead of time to avoid confusion at school.
- Place money being sent to school in a sealed envelope with the teacher's name, child's name, and what the money is for clearly written on the outside of the envelope.
- Make sure your child is dressed in clothing comfortable enough to play in during recess and easy for him or her to manage independently when they need to go to the restroom.
- Identify a specific place at home where your child places his or her school materials (book bag, lunch box, etc.) to avoid looking for items in the morning.
- Set aside a special time each afternoon or evening to talk about your child's day.
- Communicate with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns. Just remember it is best to make an appointment rather than simply trying to catch them during arrival or dismissal time.

# Next Steps...



Sometimes parents feel that once their child has started school their job is finished! Actually you are more important now than you've ever been. The most important thing you can do is get involved and stay involved!

## The 5 R's For Parents

*Make sure your child:*

1. Gets plenty of **REST**
2. Eats **REALLY** healthy food
3. Attends school **REGULARLY**
4. Has **ROUTINES** and a schedule
5. Is **READ** to everyday

These things are extremely important for your child to do well in school. No matter how great a teacher is, he/she still needs your help. Making sure these things happen supports the teacher, and most importantly, your child.

Nothing makes a child feel better than to see a friendly, respectable relationship between the most important grown ups in the child's life - his/her parents and teacher. But sometimes parents feel nervous. They may feel that the teacher knows everything and that they have nothing to add. Teachers don't feel that way. They are pleased when parents express a desire to work together as partners to help their child learn.



***Always remember:***

***You know your child better than anyone does.***

***You were your child's first teacher and will ALWAYS be the most important one!***

Sometimes parents get anxious about what their child knows or doesn't know. They are tempted to push and pressure their children into doing things they are not developmentally ready to do.

Take cues from your child. If your child is eager to learn something, such as the alphabet, and the learning experience is fun, not a battle...by all means do this!

Otherwise, it is not really necessary.

Remember: If a child comes to school eager to learn, excited about starting school, self confident, and with a solid foundation of social skills, the child will be like a little sponge soaking up all of the more "academic" skills quickly and easily.

Offer to help in ways that you can. Ask if there are things you can help your child with at home. Let the teacher know you support his/her efforts to help your child.

Keep on top of what your child is learning in school and how he/she is doing. Make sure notes and "homework" are completed and returned.

So, relax. Enjoy your child. Entering kindergarten is a major milestone in both of your lives. Make the most of this time before your child starts school!

<b>80 SKILLS THE HELP TO EASE KIDS TRANSITION INTO KINDERGARTEN</b>			
<b>READING READINESS</b>	<b>LISTENING 7 SEQUENCING</b>		
Remembers pictures from a printed page	Follows simple directions	Hop	Identifies other children by name
Repeats a 6 to 8 word sentence	Pays attention	Alternates feet walking downstairs	Can take care of toilet needs independently
Pretends to read (has been read to often)	Recognizes Common Sounds	Marches	Cares for own belongings
Identifies own first name in writing	Retells a simple story in sequence	Stands on one foot 10 seconds	Dresses self
Attempts to print own first name	Repeats a sequence of sounds	Walks backwards for 5 feet	Brushes Teeth
Answers questions about a short story	Repeats a sequence of numbers heard	Throws a ball	Can be away from parents for 2 to 3 hours
Looks at pictures and tells a story	<b>SIZE, POSITION &amp; DIRECTION</b>	Pastes pictures on paper	Joins in family conversation
Understands words are read left to right	Big and Little	Claps hands	Carries a plate of food
Familiar with the letters of the alphabet	Long and short	Buttons clothes	Maintains self-control
Knows some nursery rhymes	Up and Down	Builds with blocks	Gets along well with others
Knows the meaning of simple words	In and out	Completes simple 5 piece puzzle or less	Talks easily
	<b>TIME</b>	Draw or color beyond a simple scribble	Meets visitors without shyness
Understands night and day	Front and Back	Zips clothes	Puts toys away
Knows age and birthday	Over and under	Controls pencil and crayon well	<b>MY CHILD KNOWS...</b>
	<b>RECOGNIZES COLORS &amp; SHAPES</b>	Handles scissors	Body parts
Recognizes primary colors	Empty and full	Cut and draw simple shapes	Own first name
Recognizes Triangles, circles, squares and rectangle	More and less	Expresses self verbally	Own last name
	<b>NUMBERS</b>	Looks forward to going to school	Parent's names
		Recognizes authority	Home address
	<b>MOTOR SKILLS</b>	Shares with others	Home phone number
Counts to 10	Run	Helps with family chores	When to use a handkerchief
Can count objects	Walk a straight line	Works independently	Own sex
	Jump		

This list, which was compiled by researchers for World Book, Inc., on the basis of a survey of 4,000 kindergarten teachers, represents the ideal -- something parents can aim for

A project of the Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement  
 Center of Excellence ♦ Lois De la Parte Florida Mental Institute ♦ Florida's Children's Forum  
 Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County Headstart ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start

# Exceptional Children

The Union County Public Schools System provides special education and related services for children ages 3 through 22 who have been determined eligible for services by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Referral, evaluation, identification, and special education services are provided as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and the North Carolina Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Disabilities.

For more information visit our EC website at [www.ucps.k12.nc.us](http://www.ucps.k12.nc.us) and click on Exceptional Children's Program.

## Process to Transition Services from EC Preschool to Kindergarten

**April - May** Transition meeting with current Preschool teacher, Special Education teacher, and representatives from the schools under consideration for placement. Kindergarten registration will be completed at the transition meeting.

Questions are best answered by the Special Education teacher that is working with your child.

If your child is **Currently Receiving Services** and you have unanswered questions contact:

- EC Preschool Services  
Glenda Rape, Exceptional Children's Preschool Coordinator 704-283-3621
- Speech/Language Services only  
Julie Parlier, Lead Speech/Language Pathologist 704-283-3697 or  
Jennifer Cantrell, EC Preschool Speech Language Pathologist 704-290-1509
- OT/PT Services  
Darci Smith 704-283-3852  
Tracey McLaughlin 704-283-3792  
Carolyn Smith, Lead PT  
Janet Mapps, Lead OT  
Pathologist 704-283-3521  
Matthew Schleider, PhD  
Lead School Psychologist  
704-283-3613

For Service Inquiry contact:

- Elementary EC Program Specialists  
Dr. Donica Davidson 704-283-3502  
Janie Webb 704-283-3558 or  
Adrienne Anderson 704-283-3792  
John Miles 704-283-3877

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