

School District Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_ School District Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Kindergarten Transition Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_



# Kindergarten Transition Parent Handbook

A handbook to facilitate the transition from the Allegheny Intermediate  
Unit DART Preschool Early Intervention Program to  
School-Age Kindergarten Program

## Welcome!

This handbook is designed to inform you about the process to transition your child to kindergarten. This is an exciting time for your child! We recognize this can also be a challenging time and hope once you know some of the details, transition will go smoothly. Some of you may wonder, "Is my child ready for Kindergarten?". The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and DART encourages families to register their child during your local school district's registration timeframe if your child will be kindergarten age for the following school year. At the foundation of Early intervention is the principle that children with disabilities should have access to the same opportunities and experiences as their typically developing peers. In most cases, it is beneficial for a child with a disability to receive instruction with their same age peers. By moving forward in school with your child's peers, the connections made by your child and his/her peers will continue. DART is here to help you make a smooth transition to kindergarten. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher/therapist.



## Transition Timelines

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You will receive an invitation to attend a transition meeting that will be held in February in school district of residence.</li></ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A kindergarten transition meeting will be held for all children in your school district. Members of DART and your school district will be in attendance. Information about educational options and kindergarten registration are shared at this meeting.</li><li>An 'Intent to Register' is presented, it is important for you to fill out.</li><li>The district will discuss the Permission to Evaluate and Notice of Transition Process Options to ensure your child is ready for the first day of school.</li></ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If you do not attend the February meeting, the DART office will send you the 'Intent to Register'. It is important to sign and return by April 15th.</li></ul>
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Register your child for kindergarten.</li><li>The school district coordinates the evaluation and IEP process.</li><li>Visit your school if possible.</li></ul>
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read fun stories about kindergarten.</li><li>Drive past school.</li><li>Get school supplies.</li></ul>

## Transition from Preschool Early Intervention to School-Age Special Education

### Preschool Early Intervention

<p><u>Eligibility Criteria:</u>                  (1) has a <b>developmental delay</b> OR has one of the following diagnosed disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Autism,</li> <li>▪ Deaf-blindness,</li> <li>▪ Deafness,</li> <li>▪ Emotional Disturbance,</li> <li>▪ Hearing Impairment,</li> <li>▪ Intellectual Disabilities (formerly Mental Retardation),</li> <li>▪ Multiple Disabilities,</li> <li>▪ Orthopedic Impairment,</li> <li>▪ Other Health Impairment,</li> <li>▪ Specific Learning Disability,</li> <li>▪ Speech or Language Impairment,</li> <li>▪ Traumatic Brain Injury,</li> <li>▪ Visual Impairment including Blindness</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>(2) Needs specially designed instruction.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation Process:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completed within 60 calendar days from the date parent permission is received.</li> <li>▪ Need for re-evaluation <b>every 2 years</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Individual Education Program (IEP):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annually</li> </ul>
<p><u>School Calendar:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>12-Month</b> programming (with breaks no longer than 3 weeks).</li> </ul>
<p><u>Entry age:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children may enter services on their <b>3<sup>rd</sup> birthday</b>.</li> </ul>

### School-Age Special Education

<p><u>Eligibility Criteria:</u>                  (1) has one of the following diagnosed disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Autism,</li> <li>▪ Deaf-blindness,</li> <li>▪ Deafness,</li> <li>▪ Emotional Disturbance,</li> <li>▪ Hearing Impairment,</li> <li>▪ Intellectual Disabilities,</li> <li>▪ Multiple Disabilities,</li> <li>▪ Orthopedic Impairment,</li> <li>▪ Other Health Impairment,</li> <li>▪ Specific Learning Disability,</li> <li>▪ Speech or Language Impairment,</li> <li>▪ Traumatic Brain Injury,</li> <li>▪ Visual Impairment including Blindness</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>(2) Needs specially designed instruction.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation Process:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completed within 60 calendar days from the date parent permission is received.</li> <li>▪ Need for re-evaluation <b>every 3 years</b>, except for students with diagnosis of intellectual disabilities who require an evaluation <b>every 2 years</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Individual Education Program (IEP):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annually</li> </ul>
<p><u>School Calendar:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>180 days</b> with option for extended school year</li> </ul>
<p><u>Entry age:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School district established <b>official kindergarten starting age</b>.</li> </ul>

## Options for Your Child's Transition

All children currently eligible for special education in Preschool Early Intervention and registered with the school district or charter school remain eligible for special education in their school district or charter school unless the school district, charter school, or Preschool Early Intervention program completes a reevaluation that determines the child is no longer eligible for special education. All eligible students must have an *IEP* in place by the beginning of the school year.

If you intend to register your child with your school district or the charter school, there are several options the school district or charter school will discuss with you about how the team may proceed with your child's transition.

### 1. Adopt the EI Preschool IEP for School Age

You and the school district or charter school can decide to adopt the EI Preschool Evaluation or *IEP* and implement the IEP as your child's school age *IEP*. The school district would then issue a *NOREP* indicating this recommendation.

### 2. Adopt the EI Preschool IEP with Revisions

You and the school district or the charter school can decide to adopt the EI Preschool *IEP* with revisions. The school district or charter school would discuss with you the proposed revisions to the IEP and then issue a *NOREP* to gain your approval.

### 3. Conduct a Reevaluation

You and the school district or charter school determine that a reevaluation is necessary. The school district or charter school will notify the parent in writing within a reasonable amount of time after receipt of the Intent to Register form that a reevaluation, consisting of a review of existing data and information will be conducted. The *Reevaluation Report* will summarize the data reviewed during reevaluation, the decision about whether additional evaluation data are needed, and make a determination about a child's continued eligibility for special education services. If your child remains eligible, the school district or charter school will convene an IEP meeting within 30 calendar days of the *Reevaluation Report* or within a reasonable amount of time to assure a smooth transition to school-age programs, and a new *IEP* and *NOREP* will be issued.

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

**1. My child is eligible for kindergarten this year, but I do not think she/he is ready to attend. What are my options?**

Parents have the right to keep their children in early intervention programs and services for an additional year. Children remaining in early intervention will continue to receive services through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) DART Preschool Early Intervention Program.

**2. If I am unsure about sending my child to kindergarten in the fall, should I still attend the transition meeting in February?**

Yes. The meeting is a good way to begin communication with your local school district, whether you decide to transition your child or not.

**3. Why should I sign the 'Intent to Register' by April 15<sup>th</sup>?** By signing the "Intent to Register", you and the school district will be able to make an informed decision about your child's needs. This allows the school district to have supports and services in place by the beginning of kindergarten. If the 'Intent to Register' is received after April 15<sup>th</sup>, then the school district may not have time to have supports and services in place by the start of kindergarten.

**4. What if I plan to send my child to a non-public school or home school?**

Your child may still be eligible to receive some services. Plan to attend the transition meeting in February and discuss options available with your local school district. If you have additional questions about non-public school services contact Kathleen Carnicella, AIU Director of Non-Public School, at 412-394-4934.

**5. What happens if I do not want the school district to receive any Early Intervention records?**

The Early Intervention Program must forward your child's records to the receiving school district upon the intention of the parents to register the child in the school district. Only records generated by the AIU will be forwarded. Any records generated by private providers or doctors will not be forwarded. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide any additional information to the district.

## **Will my child be “ready” for Kindergarten?**

One thing that we all need to remember is that every child develops at a different rate. DART supports the recommended practice of the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) that “readiness” does not happen at the same time or in the same way for all children. We also need to remember to look at the whole child and all areas of development including social, emotional, physical, and cognitive areas.

NAEYC's belief is that the schools need to be ready for any child when they reach the legal **CHRONOLOGICAL AGE** of entry, not just on the accomplishment of skills by that age. The schools need to be ready for **ANY** child, and they need to be prepared to provide whatever services the child may need to assist him/her in making progress to the best of their ability. It isn't a question of “is my child ready”, but “is the school ready for my child?”

School districts will share with you appropriate options of supports and services based on your child's needs.

## **Should I hold my child back a year?**

Parents will sometimes consider the option of holding their child back one additional year before entering into school age programming. Research supports that young children whose parents voluntarily hold them back an additional year show little evidence that older children are more successful in kindergarten, or that there will be better social or academic outcomes in the end. Moving on with same age peers is the recommended, research based practice of NAEYC.

## **National Association of the Education of Young Children Position Statement “School Readiness”**

The NAEYC publication of [Where We Stand on School Readiness](#). It goes into more detail regarding recommended, research based best practice on school readiness. If you would like to view the entire NAEYC position statement, please visit <http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/Readiness.pdf>.

## Kindergarten Registration Information

School District	Child MUST be 5 on or before	Required Documents	K-Registration begins
Allegheny Valley <a href="http://www.avsdweb.org">www.avsdweb.org</a> 724-274-6500	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunizations records Proof of residency (two required) PA issue identification with AV address	March
Avonworth <a href="http://www.avonworth.k12.pa.us">www.avonworth.k12.pa.us</a> 412-366-7170	September 1	Birth certificate Immunizations records Proof of residency	March
Baldwin-Whitehall <a href="http://www.bwschools.net">www.bwschools.net</a> 412-884-6300	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required) PA issue identification with BW address	February
Bethel Park <a href="http://www.bpsd.org">www.bpsd.org</a> 412-833-5000	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (three required)	February
Brentwood <a href="http://www.bb-sd.com">www.bb-sd.com</a> 412-881-2227	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required)	March
Carlynton <a href="http://www.carlynton.k12.pa.us">www.carlynton.k12.pa.us</a> 412-429-2500	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	March
Chartiers Valley <a href="http://www.cvsd.net">www.cvsd.net</a> 412-429-3270	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	March
Clairton <a href="http://www.ccsdbears.org">www.ccsdbears.org</a> 412-233-9200	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency	April
Cornell <a href="http://www.cornell.k12.pa.us">www.cornell.k12.pa.us</a> 412-264-5010	September 1	Birth certificate Immunizations Proof of residency (two required) Social security card	March



<b>School District</b>	<b>Child MUST be 5 on or before</b>	<b>Required Documents</b>	<b>K-Registration begins</b>
Deer Lakes <a href="http://www.deerlakes.net">www.deerlakes.net</a> 724-265-5340	September 1	Birth certificate or passport Immunization records Proof of residency Proof of Guardianship (if applicable)	February
Duquesne <a href="http://www.dukecitysd.org">www.dukecitysd.org</a> 412-466-9600	August 31	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required) PA issue identification with Duquesne address	February
East Allegheny <a href="http://www.eawildcats.net">www.eawildcats.net</a> 412-673-9737	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required) PA issue identification with EA address	February
Elizabeth Forward <a href="http://www.efsd.net">www.efsd.net</a> 412-896-2300	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	February
Fox Chapel <a href="http://www.fcasd.edu">www.fcasd.edu</a> 412-963-9600	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	February
Gateway <a href="http://www.gatewayk12.org">www.gatewayk12.org</a> 412-372-5300	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required)	February
Hampton <a href="http://www.ht-sd.org">www.ht-sd.org</a> 412-486-6000	August 15	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	February
Highlands <a href="http://www.goldenrams.com">www.goldenrams.com</a> 724-226-2400	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	March
Keystone Oaks <a href="http://www.kosd.org">www.kosd.org</a> 412-571-6000	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required) PA identification with KO address	February

School District	Child MUST be 5 on or before	Required Documents	K-Registration begins
McKeesport <a href="http://www.mckasd.net">www.mckasd.net</a> 412-664-3612	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required)	April
Montour <a href="http://www.montourschools.com">www.montourschools.com</a> 412-490-6500	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	March
Moon <a href="http://www.moonarea.net">www.moonarea.net</a> 412-264-9440	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (three required)	March
Mt. Lebanon <a href="http://www.mtisd.org">www.mtisd.org</a> 412-344-2000	September 8	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency	March
North Allegheny <a href="http://www.northallegheny.org">www.northallegheny.org</a> 412-369-5489	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	February
North Hills <a href="http://www.nhsd.net">www.nhsd.net</a> 412-318-1000	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required) Custody order (if applicable)	February
Northgate <a href="http://www.northgate.k12.pa.us">www.northgate.k12.pa.us</a> 412-732-3300	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required) Social security card	February
Penn Hills <a href="http://www.phsd.k12.pa.us">www.phsd.k12.pa.us</a> 412-793-7000	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required) PA identification with PH address	February
Pine Richland <a href="http://www.pinerichland.org">www.pinerichland.org</a> 724-625-7773	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required)	March

School District	Child MUST be 5 on or before	Required Documents	K-Registration begins
Plum <a href="http://www.pbsd.k12.pa.us">www.pbsd.k12.pa.us</a> 412-795-4880	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required) PA identification with Plum address Proof of Guardianship (if applicable)	February
Quaker Valley <a href="http://www.qvsd.org">www.qvsd.org</a> 412-749-5095	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency Custody order (if applicable)	February
Riverview <a href="http://www.rsd.k12.pa.us">www.rsd.k12.pa.us</a> 412-828-1800	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (three required) PA identification with Riverview address	February
Shaler Area <a href="http://www.sasd.k12.pa.us">www.sasd.k12.pa.us</a> 412-492-1200	August 31	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (two required) Custody order (if applicable)	February
South Allegheny <a href="http://www.southallegheny.org">www.southallegheny.org</a> 412-675-3070	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	January
South Fayette <a href="http://www.southfayette.org">www.southfayette.org</a> 412-221-4542	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency	February
South Park <a href="http://www.sparksd.org">www.sparksd.org</a> 412-655-3111	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	February
Steel Valley <a href="http://www.steelvalleysd.org">www.steelvalleysd.org</a> 412-464-3600	September 1	Birth certificate Immunizations Proof of residency (four required)	January

School District	Child MUST be 5 on or before	Required Documents	K-Registration begins
Sto Rox <a href="http://www.srsd.k12.pa.us">www.srsd.k12.pa.us</a> 412-778-8871	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	April
Upper St. Clair <a href="http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us">www.uscsd.k12.pa.us</a> 412-833-1600	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	February
West Allegheny <a href="http://www.westasd.org">www.westasd.org</a> 724-695-3422	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency	January
West Jefferson Hills <a href="http://www.wjhsd.net">www.wjhsd.net</a> 412-655-8450	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency	February
West Mifflin <a href="http://www.wmasd.org">www.wmasd.org</a> 412-466-9131	September 1	Birth certificate (original) Immunization records Proof of residency (two required)	February
Wilkinsburg <a href="http://www.wilkinsburgschools.org">www.wilkinsburgschools.org</a> 412-371-9667	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency Social security card PA identification with Wilkinsburg address	April
Woodland Hills <a href="http://www.whsd.net">www.whsd.net</a> 412-731-1300	September 1	Birth certificate Immunization records Proof of residency (two required) Proof of Guardianship (if applicable)	March

## Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

This checklist, although not *exhaustive*, can help to guide you in preparing your child for school. It's best to look at the items included as goals toward which to aim. They should be done, as much as possible, through everyday life or by fun activities you've planned with your child. If your child lags behind in some areas, don't worry. Remember that all children are unique. They grow and develop at different rates - and no one thing guarantees that a child is ready for school.

### Social and Emotional Preparation

- Provide opportunities for your child to spend time with other children playing and talking
- Encourage your child to share and take turns
- Give chores or jobs to your child
- Get into a daily routine
- Remind children to listen when others talk

### Safety and Self Help

- Have your child practice stating their name and home information
- Encourage your child to dress self and try to snap, button, and zip their own clothing
- Encourage children to put away their toys

### Literacy

- Provide books and read to your child; have them "read" to you
- Read, recite, sing, and act out nursery rhymes
- Provide puzzles, games, crayons, markers, pencils, scissors, glue and other toys or art materials for your child

### Math

- Focus your child's attention on colors, shapes, and numbers seen all around such as: when shopping at the grocery store
- Encourage your child to practice sorting skills by sorting toys, laundry or grocery items
- Practice counting in everyday activities such as: walking up and down steps, setting the table or putting toys away

Adapted from: Preparing for Kindergarten (2017)

## Sharing My Child's Skills with My School District

Before attending an individual Kindergarten Transition meeting and/or developing your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP), you may want to write down some of your child's strengths and needs. The information below may help you organize your thoughts, concerns, and questions:

<p><b>Communication Skills</b> My child has recently learned:</p>	<p>I am concerned my child has not yet learned to:</p>
<p><b>Social Interactions and Behaviors</b> My child has recently learned:</p>	<p>I am concerned my child has not yet learned to:</p>
<p><b>Other Skills</b> My child has recently learned:</p>	<p>I am concerned my child has not yet learned to:</p>

## Kindergarten Book List

Reading the following books with your child may be helpful in easing the transition to kindergarten.

The Berenstain Bears Go To School (Berenstain, Stan & Jan)

The Bus for Us (Bloom, Suzanne)

Franklin Goes to School (Bourgeois, Paulette)

How Did You Grow So Big, So Soon? (Bowen, Anne)

Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come (Carlson, Nancy)

Will I Have A Friend? (Cohen, Miriam)

School Bus (Crews, Donald)

First Day Jitters (Danneberg, Julie)

I'm Telling You, Dex, Kindergarten Rocks! (Davis, Katie)

First Day of School: All About Shapes and Sizes (Hall, Kristen)

My First Days Of School (Hamilton-Merritt, Jane)

A Place Called Kindergarten (Harper, Jessica)

Chrysanthemum (Henkes, Kevin)

Off to School, Baby Duck (Hest, Amy)

Don't Say that Word! (Katz, Alan)

On the Way to Kindergarten (Kroll, Virginia L.)

Little Bear Goes To Kindergarten (Langreuter, Julia & Sobat, Vera)

Froggy Goes to School (London, Jonathan)

Countdown to Kindergarten (McGhee, Allison)

Enrico Starts School (Middleton, Charlotte)

Wow! School! (Neubecker, Robert)

The Kissing Hand (Penn, Audrey)

First Day, Hooray! (Poydar, Nancy)

Safety on the Bus (Raatma, Lucia)

Tiptoe into Kindergarten (Rogers, Jacqueline)

Vera's First Day of School (Rosenberry, Vera)

I Love You All Day Long (Rusackas, Francesca)

Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of Kindergarten (Slate, Joseph)

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten (Slate, Joseph)

The Bus Stop (Stoeke, Janet Morgan)

Mouse's First Day of School (Thompson, Lauren)

Timothy Goes To School (Wells, Rosemary)

Tom Goes to Kindergarten (Wild, Margaret)

The Night Before Kindergarten (Wing, Natasha & Durrell, Julie)

The Kissing Hand (Wood, Audrey)



## The Night Before Kindergarten

By: Natasha Wing

'Twas the night before kindergarten and as they prepared, kids were excited and a little bit scared.  
They tossed and they turned about in their beds, while visions of school supplies danced in their heads.

Erasers and crayons and pencils galore were stuffed in their backpacks and set by the door.  
Outfits were hung in closets with care, knowing that kindergarten soon would be there.

In the morning it came - school starts today! Would the teacher be nice? Would they still get to play?  
Faces were washed, and teeth were brushed white; Kids posed for pictures with eyes sparkling bright.

Parents packed snacks and kids hopped in cars, as if they were boarding a spaceship to Mars.  
Some kids brought blankets or their favorite stuffed bear; in hopes they could nap like they did in day care.

Their parents exclaimed: "You're big kids - WOW! Let us hold your bears and blankets for now."  
The parents were worried their children would cry if they left them at school with just a good-bye.

So they told their darlings, "If you want, we can stay and make sure that everything will be A-okay"  
The teacher then greeted each one with a smile, and invited the students to stay for a while.

The room was all filled with toys, books, and maps, but where were the beds for midmorning naps?  
They colored and painted and played Simon Says, then tumbled and skipped and stood on their heads.

They sang silly songs from beginning to end. Within just a minute, each kid had a friend.  
The children were happy. They loved Miss Sunrise. It was she who was in for a giant surprise.

When what to her wondering eyes should appear but sad moms and dads who were holding back tears!  
Their noses - so sniffly! Their eyes - red and wet! This was the saddest good-bye Miss Sunrise had seen yet!  
She gathered the grown-ups on the magical rug. Then sent them away after one final hug.

The children all waved from the door of the school. "Don't cry Mom and Dad;

**kindergarten is cool!"**



# Notes

