



Esperanza Cyber  
Charter School

# Kindergarten Transition Parent Handbook

## Contents

[Vision](#) 3 [Welcome!](#) 3 [Immunizations](#) 4 [Your First Meeting](#) 5 [Special Education](#) 6 [Special Education Options for Your Child's Transition](#) 6 [Will My Child Be Ready for Kindergarten?](#) 7 [The Elementary Program at Esperanza Cyber Charter School](#) 11 [What Will My Child Learn in Kindergarten](#) 12

## Vision

Esperanza Cyber Charter School will provide an inspiring academic and social online learning environment that prepares students to be critically thinking, socially capable, culturally aware young adults who can use English, Spanish and technology as tools for success in the 21st century.

## Welcome!

This handbook has been developed to help you learn more about the process to transition your child to kindergarten. This is an exciting time, but it can be challenging too. We want this transition to happen easily and happily for your child.

You are eligible to enroll your child in kindergarten if he or she meets these requirements:

- If your child is five (5) years old on or before September 1.

Students entering Esperanza Cyber Charter School must have the following information completed and approved by the School before they are admitted:

- Completed Application Packet

- Proof of Birth Date
  - Original birth certificate, original baptismal certificate, or written statement from your physician on letterhead attesting to the chronological age of your child.
- Required Health Forms
  - Immunization Record
  - Medical Health History
  - Private Physician Exam Form
  - Private Dental Exam Form
- Proof of Residency
  - Under the authority of Sections 1301 and 1302 of the Pennsylvania School Code, you are requested to provide to Esperanza Cyber Charter School with acceptable proof of current address BEFORE enrollment of your child can occur.
  - You must also provide the name and mailing address of any previous school your child attended.

## Immunizations

Children may enter kindergarten and 1st grade (first time entering school), for the 2020-2021 school year, with the following minimal immunizations:

- 1 dose of DPT, DtaP, (Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus) or Td (Diphtheria and Tetanus) vaccine
- 1 dose IPV or OPV (Polio) vaccine
- 1 dose of Hepatitis B vaccine
- 1 dose of MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine
- Proof of varicella (Chicken Pox) immunity be it either by disease (a written statement from parent/guardian with approximate date of disease) or vaccine (proof of vaccine by physician) on or after the child's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Children need not be immunized if (1) your child's physician provides a written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the

child or (2) if the parent or guardian objects in writing to the immunization on religious grounds or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief.

## Acceptable Forms of Proof of Residency

### **HOME OWNERS OR HOME RENTERS MUST PROVIDE:**

1. **Current utility bill** dated within 30 days of registration and must include your name and address.  
**NOTE: Any one of the following: Energy, water, sewer, gas, oil, cable**

2. **Plus TWO** OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS LISTED

#### **PERSONAL ID'S MUST HAVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN WHO IS DOING THE REGISTRATION OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

- DRIVER'S LICENSE
- CAR REGISTRATION
- CAR INSURANCE
- CURRENT BANK STATEMENT OR LETTER FROM BANK DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION
- A CURRENT LETTER FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION
- A CURRENT HEALTH INSURANCE STATEMENT, DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION

### **IF YOU ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PURCHASING A HOME YOU MUST PROVIDE:**

1. **A signed sales agreement with the settlement date** that is within 60 days of registration.

**NOTE: 10 days after settlement date you will be required to provide a current utility bill and 2 personal ID's with new address.**

**APARTMENT DWELLERS MUST PROVIDE:**

1. **Current lease** with all occupants in the apartment listed. The lease must be dated within 30 days of registration and signed by the management, or a letter from the apartment management on their letterhead stating **THE LEASE HOLDER AND ALL OCCUPANTS OF THE APARTMENT**. This letter must be signed & dated within 30 days of registration.
  
2. **Plus TWO** OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS LISTED  
**PERSONAL ID'S MUST HAVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN WHO IS DOING THE REGISTRATION OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS**
  - DRIVER'S LICENSE
  - CAR REGISTRATION
  - CAR INSURANCE
  - CURRENT BANK STATEMENT OR LETTER FROM BANK DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION
  - A CURRENT LETTER FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION
  - A CURRENT HEALTH INSURANCE STATEMENT, DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION

You will not be able to register a child if you do not have proof of age, immunization records, and acceptable proof of residency. The fact that there is already a sibling in the school is not acceptable proof of residency.

### [Your First Meeting](#)

Upon a complete application you and your child will be scheduled to meet with the Enrollment Specialist at which time your child will be given a brief overview of the school's academic program.

All kindergarten students are enrolled in English Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Other courses could include Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, or Technology.

During this meeting you will learn about the curriculum, how to access the courses, expectations of communication, helping your child learn the content provided, and how to access grades.

# Special Education

If your child has a pre-school early intervention plan the school will discuss with you how best to proceed with your child’s transition.

Preschool Early Intervention	School-Age Special Education
<p><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b>                      (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>AND</p> <p>(2) Needs specially designed instruction.</p>	<p><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b>                      (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>AND</p> <p>(2) Needs specially designed instruction.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation Process:</b></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 every 2 years.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Evaluation Process:</b></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 every 3 years, except for students with diagnosis of intellectual disabilities who require an evaluation every 2 years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Individual Education Program (IEP):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annually</li> </ul>	<p><b>Individual Education Program (IEP):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annually</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Calendar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 12-Month programming (with breaks no longer than 3 weeks).</li> </ul>	<p><b>School Calendar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 180 days with option for extended school year</li> </ul>
<p><b>Entry age:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children may enter services on their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Entry age:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School district established official kindergarten starting age.</li> </ul>

## Special Education Options for Your Child’s Transition

All children currently eligible for special education in a pre-school early intervention program and registered with the school remain eligible for special education unless the school or the prior program completes a reevaluation that determines your child is no longer eligible for special education. All eligible students must have an IEP in place at the beginning of the school year.

Upon enrollment the School will discuss with you several options about how the team may best proceed with your child’s transition:

1. Adopt the early intervention preschool IEP – You and the School can

decide to adopt the IEP and implement the IEP as your child's school-age IEP. The School would then issue a NOREP indicating this recommendation.

2. Adopt the early intervention preschool IEP with revisions – You and the School can decide to adopt the IEP with revisions. The School would discuss the proposed revisions with you and then issue a NOREP for your approval.
3. Conduct a reevaluation – You and the School may decide that a reevaluation is necessary. The school will notify you in writing within a reasonable amount of time after your enrollment 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 your child's continued eligibility for special education. If your child remains eligible, the 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. A New IEP and NOREP will be issued.

### Will My Child Be Ready for Kindergarten?

Every child develops at a different rate but Esperanza Cyber Charter School is prepared for any child who reaches the legal chronological age of five (5) years on or before September 1 of the year enrolled in Kindergarten. It is important to understand that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not mandate children to attend Kindergarten. Therefore, your six (6) year old child who did not attend Kindergarten can enroll in first grade OR at your written request enroll in Kindergarten.

If you have enrolled your child in Kindergarten before the fall school year starts, here are some things you could do with your child over the summer

to better prepare for a successful transition:

### *Promote Good Health and Well-being*

- Eat a balanced diet.
- Receive regular medical and dental care.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Run, jump, and play outdoors to develop large muscles and coordination.
- Work puzzles, scribble, color, paint, and other activities to develop small muscles and creativity.
- Participate in the Philadelphia Department of Recreation activities.

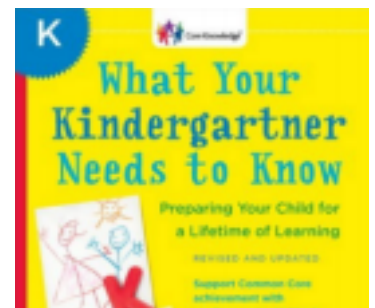
### *Social and Emotional Preparation*

- Explore new things and learn to be more confident.
- Learn to finish tasks alone and with others to promote collaboration.
- Uses self-control to be more responsible.

- Helps the family with small chores to promote teamwork and responsibility.

### *Language and General Knowledge*

- Find the book “What Your Kindergartner Needs to Know” by E. D. Hirsch, Jr. or “Everything I Need to Know Before I’m Five” by Valorie Fisher at your local library and promote opportunities to learn new skills.
  - Sing the ABC’s.
  - Write his or her first and last name.
  - Identify and write all letters in upper and lower case.





- Know all the letter sounds.
- Count from 0-20.
- Identify and write numbers 0-20.
- Know basic sight words.
- Identify shapes.
- Tell time.
- Know days of the week and months in the year.
- Knows night and day.
- Read, read, read!
  - Children who read or are read to at home enjoy a huge advantage over children who do not read or are not read to.
  - 26% of children who were read to 2-4 times a week recognize all the letters of the alphabet compared to about 14% of children who were read to less frequently.
  
- Children can also count to 20 or higher, write their own names, and read at some level if they read or are read to.
- The Philadelphia Free Library is promoting **Read! By 4<sup>th</sup>**, a school readiness program challenging kindergarten children to read on grade level by 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Visit their website, <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/readby4th>
- Free online books at <http://asp.tumblebooks.com>
- Ask questions. Solve problems.
- Draw, dance, and listen and make music.
- Get first-hand experiences to do new things.

Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your child using the Readiness Checklist. That knowledge will help you develop a summer program for your child.

**Kindergarten Readiness Checklist**

Kindergarten is an exciting time for both parents and children. Young children learn best through active play and everyday life experiences. They start to learn from the moment they are born and need the love and support of their caregivers—the most important people in their lives. You are your child’s first and most important teacher!

Many parents are unsure as to the best time to start kindergarten for their children. Kindergarten has changed in many ways since they were children. More is expected of children academically today, but children also need to be socially and emotionally prepared. Readiness is a combination of age, individual growth, and experience. This checklist is designed to help you examine your child’s physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Mastery of each item on the checklist is not expected. Most four or five year olds will not score 100%. Instead, this checklist can indicate areas of strength and areas of weakness to consider in deciding if your child is ready to be screened for kindergarten.

Please use the following scale to evaluate what your child can do:  
 A. Not yet    B. Some of the time    C. More than half of the time    D. Almost Always

Cognitive Development:

A	B	C	D	1. Identify basic colors: red green blue orange yellow purple pink black brown
A	B	C	D	2. Identify parts of the body (head, shoulders, knees, ankles, arms, legs, etc)
A	B	C	D	3. Draw self with head, body, arms, legs, hands, feet, facial features
A	B	C	D	4. State age and birthday
A	B	C	D	5. State address
A	B	C	D	6. Participate in art and music activities
A	B	C	D	7. Demonstrate curiosity, persistence, and exploratory behavior
A	B	C	D	8. Put together simple puzzles

**Tips to help your child prepare for kindergarten:**  
 Children at this age best learn through play. A variety of experiences is vital for your child to develop cognitively. Provide age appropriate toys which require problem solving. This includes puzzles, interlocking blocks. Provide opportunities and materials for writing and creative expression: crayons, sand, water, paint, paper, markers, scissors, hole punch, yarn, beans, and popsicle sticks. Let your child dress up or engage in other imaginative play (house, post office, etc). Teach your child basic information such as his/her full name, address, telephone number; as well as your full name and where you work. Set the tone that learning is good, fun, and important. Share with your child fun things that you remember from your school days.

Here are some books that you can read with your child to ease the transition:

#### **Books About Me**

- *I Like Me!* by Nancy L. Carlson
- *I Like to Be Little* by Charlotte Zolotow
- *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle
- *My Five Senses* by Alike
- *Owen* by Kevin Henkes
- *When I Get Bigger* by Mercer Mayer

#### **Family Stories**

- *Just Me Books* by Mercer Mayer
- *Mama Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Jooose

#### **Predictable Books**

##### **(Stories with a pattern using rhyme or rhythm.)**

- *Curious George* by H. A. Rey
- *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- *The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone
- *Gregory the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat
- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gág
- *What's in Fox's Sack?* by Paul Galdone

#### **Beginning, Middle, and End Concept**

- *Bony-Legs* by Joanna Cole
- *A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee* by Chris Van Dusen
- *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch
- *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins
- *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown

#### **Color and Counting Books**

- *Each Orange Had Eight Slices: A Counting Book* by Paul Giganti Jr.
- *Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On* by Lois Ehlert
- *Frog Counts to Ten* by John Liebler
- *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni
- *Is it Red? Is it Yellow? Is it Blue?* by Tana Hoban
- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- *Ten Bears in My Bed: A Goodnight Countdown* by Stanley Mack
- *Ten Little Fish* by Audrey Wood
- *26 Letters and 99 Cents* by Tana Hoban

#### **Caldecott Winners and Honor Books**

- *Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert
- *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
- *More, More, More Said the Baby* by Vera B. Williams
- *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathman
- *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni
- *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens

#### **Mother Goose and Nursery Rhymes**

- *James Marshall's Mother Goose* by James Marshall
- *My Very First Mother Goose* by Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells
- *Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose* by Tomie dePaola

#### **Folktales and Fairy Tales**

- *Chicken Little* by Steven Kellogg
- *Cinderella* by Marcia Brown
- *The Hare and the Tortoise* by Brian Wildsmith
- *Henny Penny* by H. Werner Zimmermann
- *The Little Red Hen* by Margot Zemach
- *The Three Bears* by Paul Galdone
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Peter Christen Asbjornsen
- *Three Little Pigs* by James Marshall
- *The Three Little Pigs* by Rodney Peppé
- *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen

#### **Stories in Rhyme**

- *All the Colors of the Earth* by Sheila Hamanaka
- *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain* by Verna Aardema
- *Miss Spider's Tea Party* by David Kirk

#### **Friends**

- *Benjamin and Tulip* by Rosemary Wells
- *We Are Best Friends* by Alike
- *Who Will Be My Friends?* by Syd Hoff

#### **Fabulous Science Books**

- *Cars and How they Go* by Joanna Cole
- *Eyewitness Juniors Amazing Frogs and Toads* by Barry Clarke
- *Magic School Bus On the Ocean Floor* by Joanna Cole

## The Elementary Program at Esperanza Cyber Charter School

Elementary students, K-5, are mandated to have a learning coach, who will help the young student participate in courses. All elementary students, K-5 are enrolled in both synchronous and asynchronous delivery methods, which involve daily attendance, participation in live classes, and completing assignments in class.

A standard full-year pace is 36 weeks. Every course has a unique pacing guide to assist students in staying on target for successful completion. Students in elementary grades can withdraw from a course, but that decision will affect academic progression. All course requirements must be met in one grade before a student can be promoted to the next.

Courses currently are provided by an online curriculum provider, Savvas Realize. Each course is taught by a Pennsylvania-certified teacher. There are ongoing tutoring sessions for students who need support in any subject. Alongside the Pennsylvania-certified teachers, an academic assistant was present in each classroom to provide extra assistance for students.

Additionally, students will have a weekly 45 minutes class dedicated to character building and age-appropriate social development that is taught by our Social workers and counselors.