



Esperanza Cyber  
Charter School

# Kindergarten Transition Parent Handbook

2023-2024

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## Vision

Esperanza Cyber Charter School will provide an inspiring academic and social online learning environment that prepares students to think critically, socially capable, and 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 transitioning your child to kindergarten. This is an exciting time, but it can be challenging too. We want this transition to happen quickly and happily for your child.

You can enroll your child in kindergarten if he or she meets these requirements:

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

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 Records
  - Medical Health History
  - Private Dental Exam Form
  - Private Physician Exam Form
- Proof of Residency
  - Under the authority of Sections 1301 and 1302 of the Pennsylvania School Code, you are requested to provide Esperanza Cyber Charter School with acceptable proof of current address BEFORE your child's enrollment 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

2023-2024 school year, with the following minimal immunizations:

- 1 dose of DPT, DtaP (Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus), or Td (Diphtheria and Tetanus) vaccine
- 1 dose of 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 the approximate date of disease) or vaccine (proof of vaccine by a physician) on or after the child's 1st 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 based on a firm moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief.

## Acceptable Forms of Proof of Residency

<p align="center"><b><u>HOME OWNERS OR HOME RENTERS MUST PROVIDE:</u></b></p> <p>1. <b><u>Current utility bill</u></b> dated within 30 days of registration and must include your name and address. <b>NOTE: Any one of the following: Energy, water, sewer, gas, oil, cable</b></p> <p>2. <b>Plus TWO</b> OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS LISTED</p> <p><b><u>PERSONAL ID'S MUST HAVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN WHO IS DOING THE REGISTRATION OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DRIVER'S LICENSE</li><li>• CAR REGISTRATION</li><li>• CAR INSURANCE</li><li>• CURRENT BANK STATEMENT OR LETTER FROM BANK DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION</li><li>• A CURRENT LETTER FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION</li><li>• A CURRENT HEALTH INSURANCE STATEMENT, DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF REGISTRATION</li></ul>
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<p align="center"><b><u>IF YOU ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PURCHASING A HOME YOU MUST PROVIDE:</u></b></p> <p>1. <b><u>A signed sales agreement with the settlement date</u></b> that is within 60 days of registration.</p> <p><b>NOTE: 10 days after settlement date you will be required to provide a current utility bill and 2 personal ID's with new address.</b></p>
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### **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
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  - 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 preschool Early Intervention Individualized Program (EI/IEP) plan, please provide the school with a copy of the IEP and a copy of the Evaluation. The team will meet with the parent/s to discuss with you how best to proceed with your child's transition from Early Intervention to School Aged Special Education supports. The school will use the Early Intervention documents to understand your child's needs and services as a school-aged child. The school will proceed with either a Reevaluation that may involve new

testing or a review of existing records to determine if the child is still eligible for Special Education and how to support them if they are eligible.

## Special Education Options for Your Child's Transition

All children currently eligible for special education in a preschool 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 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 and implement the IEP when your child becomes school-aged. 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 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 decide 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 ensure 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 differently, 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. Understanding that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not mandate children to attend Kindergarten is essential. 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.

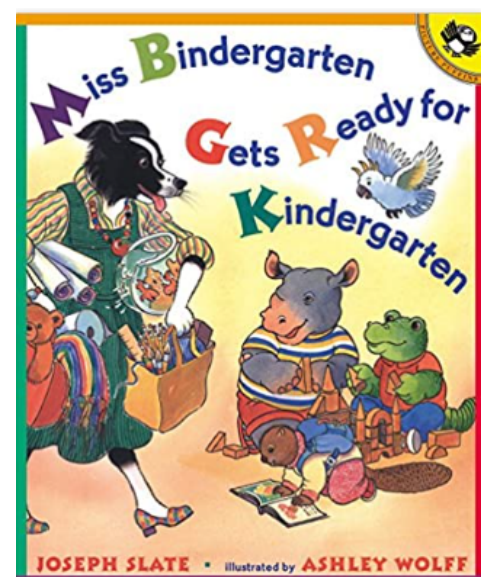
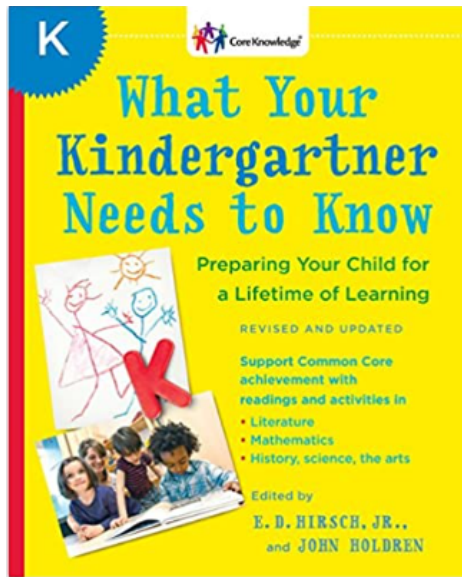
*Social and Emotional Preparation*

- 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 ABCs.
  - 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 essential sight words.
  - Identify shapes.
  - Tell time.
  - Know the days of the week and months of the year.
  - Knows night and day.





- Read, read, read!
  - Children who read or are read to at home enjoy a considerable advantage over those who do not read or are not.
  - 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 to and make music.
- Get first-hand experience doing new things.



## Evaluation Tool

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

### Skills that kindergarten teachers are looking for:

Social and emotional		Not yet	Sometimes	Usually
1.	Expresses feelings appropriate to the situation			
2.	Knows own preferences and abilities			
3.	Can suggest simple solutions to conflict			
4.	Can follow rules and routines			
Language				
5.	Recognizes 8-12 letters (upper case and lower case)			
6.	Recognizes name or other words in print			
7.	Makes beginning sounds in short words			
8.	Matches 6-10 letters with their sounds			
9.	Remembers details from stories			
10.	Uses cover and pictures to talk about a book			
11.	Writes own name, with most letters correct			
12.	Plans and tells, draws, or writes a story			
13.	Speaks in understandable sentences.			
14.	Responds appropriately to directions and questions			
15.	Talks with familiar adults and peers			
Math				
17.	Counts to 20			
18.	Knows written numbers from 1 to 10			
19.	Understands simple addition and subtraction			
20.	Names squares, circles, triangles and rectangles			
21.	Describes the order of objects (first, next to)			
22.	Compare two objects (bigger, taller, heavier)			
23.	Sorts, counts and compares quantities			
Approaches to learning				
24.	Shows interest in new experiences			
25.	Acts out familiar story lines, gives out and/or takes on roles			
26.	Sticks with chosen activities, even when they get hard			
27.	Breaks tasks into steps and does them one at a time			
Physical development				
28.	Tries to solve problems in different ways, gets needed help			
29.	Handles small and large objects			
30.	Moves whole body with confidence			

These 30 skills are based on the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Kindergarten Entry Inventory Project

## Books & Resources

Here are some books 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 synchronous and asynchronous delivery methods, which involve daily attendance, 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. 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. A Pennsylvania-certified teacher teaches each course. 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 student assistance.

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