

Family Child Care Home Education Network



changing tides
family services

Kindergarten Readiness Information

Before the school year starts, there are many things to do to help ease the transition to kindergarten. Adults can help children prepare simply by giving children the opportunity to discuss their feelings. Ask children what they think about starting Kindergarten, if they are scared, excited, or both. Let them pick books to read (see book list below for ideas). Also included in this handout are songs and activities to help children get in the groove of becoming a big kindergartner. The books, songs and activities are suggestions to help children get more familiar with what can be expected.

Kindergarten Readiness Books Available at the Humboldt County Library, Eureka Branch

Eureka Library Address: 1313 3rd Street, Eureka **Phone:** (707) 269-1900

Hours: Tuesdays-Noon to 5:00 pm, Wednesdays-Noon to 8:00 pm,

Thursdays-Noon to 5:00 pm, Fridays-10:00 am to 5:00 pm,

Saturdays-11:00 am to 4:00 pm humlib.org



The following is a list of books to read about starting school:

Ahlberg, Janet and Allan- [Starting School](#)

Carlson, Nancy- [Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!](#)

Cohen, Miriam- [Will I Have a Friend?](#)

Danneberg, Julie- [First Day Jitters](#)

Delton, Judy- [My Mom Made Me Go to School](#)

Howe, James- [The Day the Teacher Went Bananas](#)

Jackson, Kim- [First Day of School](#)

McGhee, Alison- [Countdown to Kindergarten](#)

Rockwell, Anne- [Welcome to Kindergarten](#)

Schwartz, Amy- [Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner](#)

Slate, Joseph- [Miss Kindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten](#)

Rockwell, Anne- [Welcome to Kindergarten](#)

Wells, Rosemary- [Mama, Don't Go!](#) [Timothy Goes to School](#) [Yoko](#)

Wing, Natasha- [The Night Before Kindergarten](#)



Thanks to JoAnn Bauer, Children's Librarian for Humboldt County Library

This handout was compiled by Changing Tides Family Services 2379 Myrtle Ave. Eureka, CA. 95501

School's Begun

The leaves are falling
 One by one.
 Summer's over
 Schools begun.



Heigh-ho, heigh ho, it's off to school we go,
 We laugh and play and learn all day,
 Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, heigh-ho, heigh-ho!
 It's off to school we go!

Oh, We're off to Kindergarten (sung to "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain")

Oh, we're off to kindergarten, yes we are!
 Oh, we're off to kindergarten, yes we are!
 Oh, we're off to kindergarten, we're off to Kindergarten,
 Oh, we're off to kindergarten, yes we are!

And we won't be here in preschool any more.
 Oh we won't be here in preschool any more.
 Oh, we won't be here in preschool,
 No we won't be here in preschool,
 Oh, we won't be here in preschool any more!

**Welcome**

Welcome children, I'm glad you're here. We're all going to have a wonderful year!
 We'll draw and we'll write (actions). We'll sing and we'll play (actions). We'll paint and
 build (actions), and learn new things each day!

Here in the Classroom (sung to "Up On the Housetop")

Here in the classroom where we play, we work hard right here each day.
 Working together happily, come and visit and you'll see.
 We have fun, we all play, work and learn right here each day.
 Here in the classroom we all play, working together every day.



The Wheels on the School Bus

The wheels on the school bus go round and round,
Round and round, Round and round,
The wheels on the school bus go round and round,
On the way to school.

The wipers on the school bus go swish, swish, swish,
Swish, swish, swish, Swish, swish, swish,
The wipers on the school bus go swish, swish, swish,
On the way to school.

The horn on the school bus goes beep, beep, beep,
Beep, beep, beep, Beep, beep, beep,
The horn on the school bus goes beep, beep, beep,
On the way to school.

The driver on the school bus says, "Come on board!"
"Come on board!"
"Come on board!"
The driver on the school bus says, "Come on board!"
On the way to school.

The children on the bus say, "School is cool!"
"School is cool!"
"School is cool!"
The children on the bus say, "School is cool!"
On the way to school.



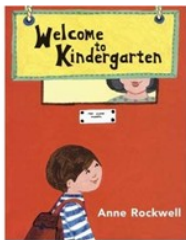


Read The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn. Talk about how the animals feel on the first day of school. Talk to the children and ask them if they are feeling scared, nervous or excited. Have the older children talk about what they remember about going to kindergarten.

There is a picture in the book that shows the whole class with their teacher, the owl. Talk about what kinds of things they will be learning in kindergarten.

Chester's mom tells him the secret of the Kissing Hand is to help him feel closer to her when he is at school. Talk about other ways to feel close to someone when you are not with them.

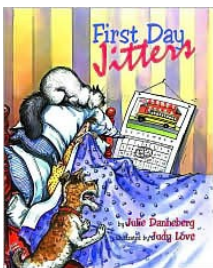
Draw hearts on each child's palm so they can have their own Kissing Hand.



Welcome to Kindergarten by Anne Rockwell gives a virtual tour of a kindergarten classroom. Compare the centers and activities talked about in the book to things you already have and do in your child care. Kindergarten might not be so different than their experiences in your care.



After singing the *Wheels on the Bus* song, talk about bus safety. For those kids who are not riding a bus, talk about how they will get to school, i.e. walking with a parent or sibling, riding a bike, or driving in a car. Make a graph of how the kids think they will get to school then count and compare the tallies.



In First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg, the teacher is the one who is nervous about the first day of school. Ask the kids if they think teachers get nervous too. Talk about other kids who are going to school who may be worried about what to expect. Come up with ideas that might help ease those first day jitters.

Help the children write a note or draw a picture to take with them for their teacher on the first day. Or maybe they can mail it to the school if the parent already knows who the teacher will be.

Help the children think of something they can take to school with them, like a family picture or a note from a loved one, to keep in their backpack or pocket. Write down each child's idea and share it with parents.

We'd love to hear your feedback regarding this handout. Please call 444-8293.