



# Before the 1st Day

(For Parents)

## Emergency Contacts

Make sure the school has names and telephone numbers of people to contact in an emergency.



Make alternative pick-up plans for unexpected problems.

## School Personnel

Keep the names and numbers of important school personnel handy. (classroom teacher, principal, assistant principal, bus garage) Contact them when you have an interest, problem, or concern.

## Meet the Teacher

If possible, meet the teacher in person. Schools generally hold kindergarten round-ups in the spring and an open house just prior to or after the first day of school. If you cannot attend these activities, call the teacher and arrange a meeting (in person if possible, or by phone).



## Transportation Plans

If your child will ride the bus, find out the bus number along with where and when it stops. Make plans for getting your child to the bus stop. Consider plans for rainy days.



If your child will walk, make plans for someone to accompany him or her. Review safety rules. (See Tip Sheet in Violence Theme Packet) Make arrangements for rainy days (picking up at school, providing a raincoat or umbrella).

If you plan to drive your child, contact the school to find out how and where to drop-off and pick-up. Schools generally have plans for traffic flow and identifying students when their car arrives. Make plans for possible car break-downs.

## Meal Plans/Information

Decide whether your child will take his or her lunch, or purchase school meals. If you wish to pack your



child's lunch, you can choose to purchase milk only.

If your child will eat school lunches, contact the school to find out the price. Free and reduced price meal applications should be sent out by the school by the first day of school and processed within one week.

## Attendance Information

Calendars are given out by the schools. They include information about start days, ending days, holidays, teacher planning days, PTA meetings, special activities, etc.

Find out what to do when your child misses school. Generally, a note from the parent/guardian for an absence to be excused is acceptable.

Find out school procedures for a student who arrives late for school. Usually, the child must be "signed in" at the office before going to his or her classroom.

## Parent Organizations

Nearly every school



has some form of a parent-teacher organization. These groups usually send home letters to parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year. These letters will define different ways that you can get involved in your child's school.

## Supplies



The schools generally provide a list of supplies that are needed. This is sometimes done at the spring round-up or by the individual teacher at open house just prior to the start of school. Since kindergarten classrooms are required to provide a rest time, many schools ask children to come with a "nap mat or towel." Check with your school.

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For more information contact:



**The Center for Parent Involvement** (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at [www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi](http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi). The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Transition Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #4: Before the first day (for parents).

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