



# Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

(about transitioning to kindergarten)

Q "My sister says that it is very difficult to get a child registered for a school that is not in the designated boundaries. How can I find out more about this?"



A Public schools have a procedure to follow for request of an out-of-boundary placement. You need to complete and submit a school assignment form indicating a legitimate reason for requesting the new assignment. The school system will notify you of approval or disapproval.

Q "Why is it so important that I register my child early? What difference does it make?"

A Each year the school's funding and staffing are affected by the total number of students enrolled. When you register early, schools can better

prepare for your children. They can more accurately predict population, class assignments can be made earlier allowing teachers to begin preparations earlier. Most important, early registration may mean less stress for you, your child, and the school's front office staff.



Q "My child worries about the transition to kindergarten constantly. Is this normal? What should I do?"

A Encourage your child to talk with you about her fears. Try to answer her questions about the changes she will face. If you don't have the answers, contact your new school for help. All schools have access to a guidance counselor that should be able to help you and your child deal with school fears.

Q "What if I am unhappy with my child's teacher and want to have him moved to another class?"

A Ideally, work out your problem with the teacher directly. If you have tried that and you are still not satisfied, call or write the principal. Let her know what your concerns are and that you have unsuccessfully addressed them with the teacher. Consider the suggestions of the principal. If you are not satisfied with the principal's solution, you may contact the local School Board office to file a complaint.

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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, #8: Answers to frequently asked questions.

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