



Helpful Hints From Kindergarten Teachers

(For Families With Children Entering Kindergarten)

The following hints have been collected from kindergarten teachers to help parent's and children successfully meet the challenges of transition from preschool environments to the kindergarten environment.

Help children develop listening skills and increase attention span by....



Increasing the length or number of stories you read to your child over a period of time.

Asking questions that help to develop your child's comprehension.....

- *factual questions like, how many, what was their name...
- * prediction questions like, what do you think will happen when...
- * personal opinion questions, like what would you have done if you were...

Share with your child about the differences in curriculum...

More structured and directed format
More group projects-less free play
More formal curriculum materials

and "school life" ...

More inside activities- less outside
More timelines-less flexible schedule
More school wide rules-less negotiation of consequences

Help your child develop social skills by...

Model perspective taking by sharing how other's might be feeling/thinking.
Model decision making and fairness.
Provide social experiences for your child with children and adults.



A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida's Children's Forum
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County Head Start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start

Help your child develop self-help skills by...

Identify chores that your child can do daily, weekly and monthly.

Give your child the opportunity to make choices about clothing, food & strategies for completing their chores.



Teach your child personal hygiene skills.....

- Toilet habits/wiping & washing
- Washing hands before meals
- Brushing teeth

Help your child develop self control by...

Not placing unrealistic expectations on your child...just like you they can become frustrated and angry. Prevention is the key!

Modeling how to solve problems. Talk out loud while you think of solutions to your own challenges....children see what you say before they hear what you say!

Share with your child's teacher strategies you have found most effective in dealing with your

child's challenging behaviors.

Above all, teachers would like to see parents take more seriously...

- Attendance
- Tardiness
- Updating emergency contact records
- Asking their child about their day
- Checking the child's backpack for notes
- Signing and returning papers

Kindergarten teachers are willing to maintain open lines of communication with the preschool community in order to enhance

activities for children, parents, and staff!



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. 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, Parent Tip Sheets, #17: Helpfull hints from Kindergarten Teacher

© 1999, Tampa, Florida

This is a publication of the Florida Center for Parent Involvement which was funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The opinions contained in this publication are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education. All or portions of this work may be reproduced providing the Florida Center for Parent Involvement, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida is properly credited on all reproductions.

Events, activities, programs and facilities of the University of South Florida are available to all without regard to race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, Vietnam or disabled veteran status as provided by law and in accordance with the University's respect for personal dignity.

**University of
South Florida
USF**