

Transition to Kindergarten Meeting

April 24, 2024

3:00-4:23pm

- Intros
- Transition to K books & stuffed puppies have been ordered to give to incoming K students. A collaboration with the K-9 Traveler for incoming students to ease worries. If you are a director, administrator, or teacher who has not yet received these items, please reach out to Kelly Davis/Tina Salcedo.
- NLPS preparing for screenings- Starting May 7th for families who submitted a waiver to determine eligibility for K. Currently about 40 waivers have been submitted. Once all info and data is collected-NLPS will have the ability to know how many students can be selected.
- Staff & families across the state need to remember we are all facing these changes together. We will continue to share information with families because some people are still not aware of the age change.

Preschool Expectations for Entering Students

- Working on independence- dressing, opening containers
- Potty training
- Patience- taking turns, waiting for turns
- Problem solving strategies
- Appropriate language
- Social/Emotional Skills- what other strategies can be used besides crying
- Attendance- explaining to parents it is ok to support children, but they need to say goodbye and drop off
- Preparing parents for Kindergarten expectations as well
- Stopping use of blankets and pacifiers

Kindergarten Expectations for Entering Students

- Huge challenge for current school year- emotional regulation
- Following routines
- Toileting
- Transitioning
- Preparing for the overwhelming size of buildings
- Knowing their name- identifying themselves
- Label Items for identification of items and children
- Parent/family involvement in their child's education.

New London Public Schools continues to offer family engagement opportunities. This is open to preschool families throughout the community. These events allow students opportunities to build relationships and build rapport with a variety of staff and peers. Attending these events can help students with the transition to Kindergarten. E-mails are sent to center directors about these events. If you are unaware, please reach out to Jersa Valencia directly for more information.

The outliers are the students who do not have the opportunity to attend pre-K.

If you have a good idea, or see a strategy being utilized for advertising/communication that you feel would benefit our mission, please reach out to your directors/administration, etc. to share.

What is your wish for each child who enters your classroom:

- 2 adults in each classroom to meet the needs of all students
- Smaller class sizes
- Transition meetings, portfolio submissions, or some type of documentation for special education students entering K from Pre-K. A method for the Pre-K teachers to communicate important information about students to the future K teacher.
- Where are the Transition Cards? K teachers are still not receiving them.
- Opportunities for Pre K classes to visit K classrooms
- PD on ECE for all stake holders
- Help parents understand they are the main influence on their child's vocabulary
- K screening
- Soft K start/unassigned
- For children to develop a safe place outside of their home and a safe person

Play Based Learning Opportunities

On June 24/25- all admin will be attending a two day conference on the play based learning opportunities. The conference will cover the following areas regarding play based learning= What it is. What it looks like. How administration can support staff as they begin to implement play based learning.

Play Based Learning training will be coming in the near future for other staff members.

If teachers would like PD/literacy support about this over the summer, please reach out.

CTAEYC conference in September is in Mystic this year and will be play based learning focused. - <https://www.ctaeyc.org/conferences>



Moving forward, all Transition Cards are to be sent to Jennifer H-P. They were supposed to be sent to registration, but teachers did not receive them.

Plans are in the works for K teachers to visit Pre-K classrooms at various centers. How can we make opportunities for Pre-K teachers to visit K classrooms as well to collaborate and observe?

We continue to be hopeful to have this type of meeting more than once a year, but scheduling continues to be a challenge. If you have any ideas/suggestions of how to make this successful, please reach out to Tina Salcedo or Kelly Davis.