

Countdown to Kindergarten

in the Anchorage School District

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▶ **February: Visit Schools**

Families enrolling children in kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year should visit ASD's Web page for kindergarten information. www.asdk12.org/parents. Parents can find their neighborhood school by typing their home address on the "on-line boundary" link found on that page.

Check out what educational opportunities are available in ASD at www.asdk12.org/choices.

Visit schools! School tours are offered at every school on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. during the month of February and an evening event scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 23.

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▶ **March - April: Decide on your child's school**

Parents who are interested in having their child attend their neighborhood school do not need to sign up until school registration, held during the first full week of August.

Parents interested in having their child attend a school other than the neighborhood school must complete an online application. Complete online lottery applications are due March 24, 2016 at 5 p.m. Parents will be notified of lottery results on April 1, 2016.

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▶ **April: Plan to bring your child to his or her school's Kindergarten Roundup**

All schools will be hosting a Kindergarten Roundup for the incoming students. Parents are encouraged to take this opportunity to meet the prospective kindergarten teachers, receive information about the curriculum and what a typical day will include for students, and take a tour of the school.

Please check with your child's school for the date and time of Kindergarten Roundup.

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▶ **May - July: Plan routines for the school year**

Read the 10 Ways to Get Ready for Kindergarten for tips.

Visit your child's school playground over the summer so they become familiar with their school site.

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▶ **August: Get ready for school**

School registration is typically held the first full week in August. Visit www.asdk12.org for information on school start times, bus routes and other important information. There you can also sign up to receive email newsletters, school closure information and news releases.

Kindergarten and first grade in the Anchorage School District typically begin one week after grades 2-12. This gives parents, teachers and students an opportunity to meet and discuss the school year.

Go!

▶ **Start school on August 29!**

(Start date is tentative, please check with your child's school during registration.)



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10 Ways to Get Ready For Kindergarten

1. Create a routine over the summer. Give your child a bedtime (8 p.m. is great!) and stick to it.

2. Have your child practice writing their first name, or practice uppercase letters.

3. Use counting in your daily activities. Count how many steps it takes to get to the mailbox or the park. Count out fruit, napkins, cups, etc.

4. Take your child with you to the grocery store, post office and library. Talk with them about what they're seeing, hearing and touching. It's all part of learning.

5. Visit your local library and help your child get a free library card. Then use the card to visit the library each week and borrow a book.

Talk about the books you read. Ask questions like:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Which part did you like the least?
- Half way through the story, ask your child what they think will happen at the end and what makes them think that?

6. Let your child practice their independence by allowing them to make certain choices ("Do you want an apple or a banana?") and by encouraging them to try new things and to problem solve.

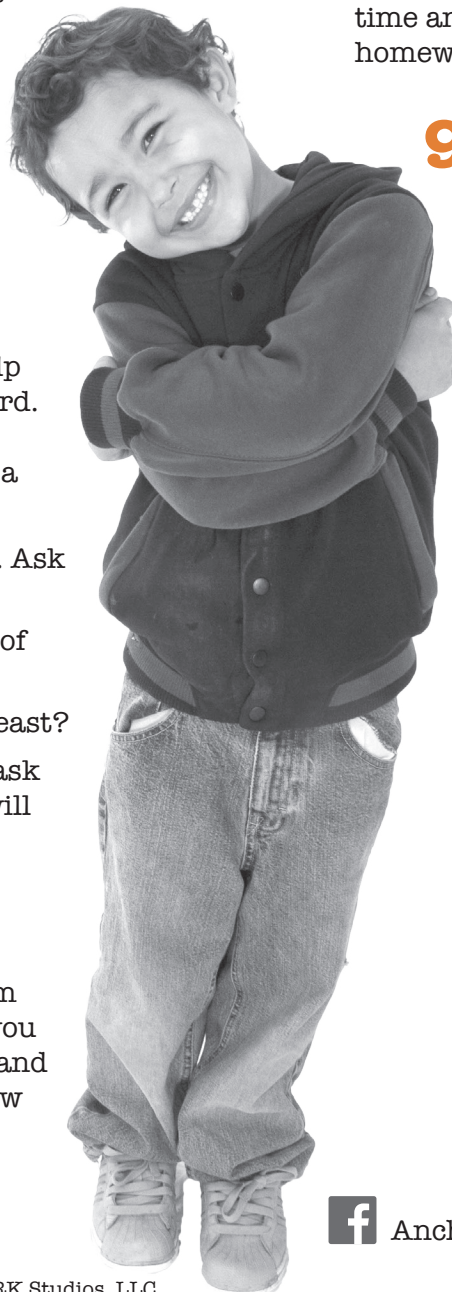
7. Set a limit to the amount of TV your child watches (1-2 hours should be the maximum.) When possible, watch TV with them and talk about what you see.

8. Prepare a "study spot" for your child and supply it with crayons, paper, scissors and other kindergarten "tools." Set aside time each day for your child to draw there. Once school starts, this can become the time and place where your child does their homework.

9. Help your child know or be able to do the following before they enter kindergarten:

- Know their name, address and telephone number .
- Use the bathroom on their own and button and zip their clothes.
- Share and play with other children. This will help them adjust to their new kindergarten classroom.

10. Read, Read, Read!
(In English or any native language.)



For more helpful tips, visit www.asdk12.org.



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