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THE COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Transition Overview

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OCTOBER-JANUARY: Visit & Choose Schools

Families who are enrolling children in kindergarten for the following school year should use the "What are my schools?" tool to get a list of schools available to your family. You should look up these schools in the School Preview Time brochure to find times when you and your family can visit schools, and make sure you bring along Countdown's "Visiting Schools" checklist!

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY: Register for Schools

Register in the first round of BPS registration to guarantee your best chance of getting into a school of your choice! Read Countdown's Information Sheets for everything you need to know about registration, gather the necessary documentation (birth certificate or passport, 3 proofs of Boston residency and child's immunization records) and visit a Family Resource Center at ANY time during first round to register.

3

APRIL-JUNE: Meet Your School

After you receive your school assignment from BPS, be sure to check the mail for an invitation to your kindergartener's new school's Welcome Session, or check the Welcome Session schedule posted on the Countdown site. Visit your school's Welcome Session with your child as an important part of the kindergarten transition process, and to learn about your new school!

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JUNE-AUGUST: Get Ready for School

Countdown to Kindergarten will send out a postcard in late May/early June inviting you and your kindergarten to go into your local library to pick up a Kindergarten Readiness Kit, including an "I'm going to kindergarten!" t-shirt, DVD and activity guide. Be sure to check out the free events for kindergarten families around the city, including the neighborhood kindergarten day celebrations and city-wide celebration at the Boston Children's Museum. Also be sure to check out our "10 Ways to Get Ready..." bookmark and Talk, Read, Play website, which has readiness ideas and free and low cost activities for families with young children in Boston.

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SEPTEMBER: Start School!

Kindergarten in the Boston Public Schools typically begins the Monday following Labor Day. Check out our "Helpful Handbook for Families" to learn what to expect in kindergarten and find out a little more about the curriculum. Be sure to fill out your parent questionnaire!