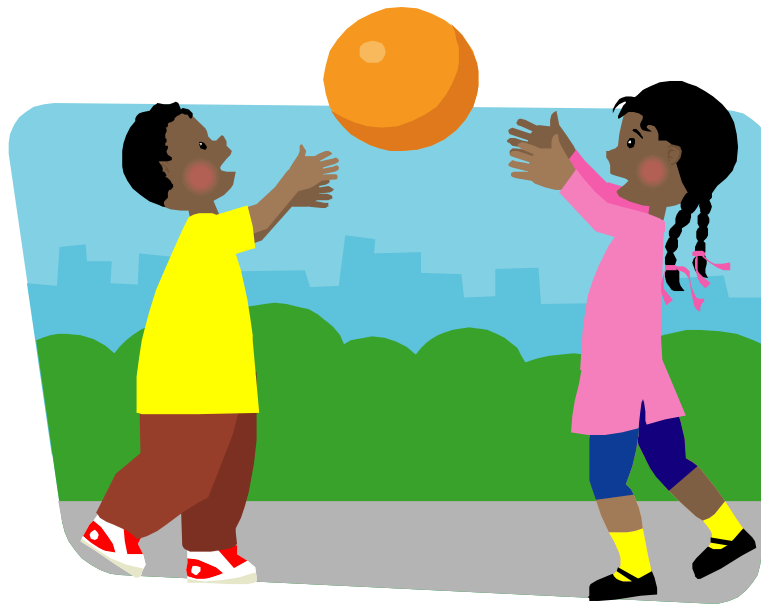


PRESCHOOL TO KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION

A Guide for Families in the
Thompson School District



Prepared by the Thompson School District Early Childhood
Program

School Year: 2011 - 2012



Getting Ready for Transition

SO MUCH TO SEE, TO DO AND TO LEARN!

Beginning Kindergarten is a very important experience for you and your child. School is an exciting and fun place where children get to meet new friends and learn to do many new and different things. Even with all of the excitement, the change to a new school can cause anxiety for you and your child. It is our goal to help make each preschool child's move to kindergarten a pleasant one in which parents, teachers and children feel comfortable and well informed.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS FEBRUARY 8th, 2012 AT EVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. CHECK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL FOR THE EXACT TIMES.

THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT - ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Berthoud Elementary School
560 Bunyan Avenue
Berthoud, CO 80513
(970) 613-7500

B.F. Kitchen Elementary School
915 Deborah Drive
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 613-5500

Big Thompson Elementary School
7702 W. Highway 34
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-5600

Carrie Martin Elementary School
4129 Joni Lane
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 613-5700

Centennial Elementary School
1555 W. 37th Street
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-5800

Cotton Wood Plains Elementary School
525 Turman Drive
Ft. Collins, CO 80525
(970) 613-5900

Coyote Ridge Elementary School
7115 Avondale Drive
Ft. Collins, CO 80525
(970) 679-9400

Garfield Elementary School
720 Colorado Avenue
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 613-6000

Ivy Stockwell Elementary School

175 5th Street
Berthoud, CO 80513
(970) 613-6100

Laurene Edmondson Elementary School
307 W. 49th Street
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-6300

Lincoln Elementary School
3312 N. Douglas Avenue
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-6200

Mary Blair Elementary School
860 E. 29th Street
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-6400

Monroe Elementary School
1500 N. Monroe Avenue
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-6500

Namaqua Elementary School
209 N. Namaqua Avenue
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 613-6600

Ponderosa Elementary School
4550 Florence Drive
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-9500

Sarah Milner Elementary School
743 Jocelyn Drive
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 613-6700

Stansberry Elementary School
407 E. 42nd Street
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-6800

Truscott Elementary School
211 W. 6th Street
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 613-6900

Van Buren Elementary School
1811 W. 15th Street
Loveland, CO 80538
(970) 613-7000

Winona Elementary School
201 S. Boise Avenue
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 6137100

New Vision Charter School
2366 E. 1st Street
Loveland, CO 80537
(970) 593-6827



- If you are not sure which school is your home elementary school you can:
1. Access the district website at www.thompsonschoo.org and click on Resources>Parents>Attendance Areas, or
 2. Call the District Planning Office at (970) 613-5017

Kindergarten Options in Thompson School District

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR KINDERGARTEN, STUDENTS MUST TURN FIVE YEARS OLD ON, OR BEFORE, OCTOBER 1ST OF THAT SCHOOL YEAR.

The district does have an application and enrollment process for children to attend kindergarten the year prior to the cut-off date. If interested, please contact your home elementary school principal for more information.

Kindergarten in the Thompson School District follows a developmental perspective. The developmental approach values each child at his or her level and teachers provide an enriching, experiential environment that facilitates learning at all levels.

Kindergarten programs vary in each elementary school. Schools may offer half-day sessions, extended-day sessions, full-day sessions, full-day/every-other-day options and/or tuition-paying full-day sessions. Contact your home school to learn more.

Many Kindergarten classrooms have around 25 students.

If you are interested in applying to a different elementary school under the district's School of Choice policy you must:

1. Register your kindergarten-eligible student at their home elementary school (this helps the district plan accordingly for all in-coming kindergarteners).
2. Between early January through late February, contact your school of choice to obtain an Application for Acceptance.
3. Families will be notified in early March of their acceptance or non-acceptance at that school.

Gathering Information for Kindergarten

Your child's Preschool Teacher will begin to talk with you about transitioning to kindergarten during parent conferences, home-visits and/or other meetings. Feel free to ask them questions about this process. At the back of this booklet is a worksheet to help you plan for the transition.

Parents are also welcomed to visit kindergarten classrooms in their child's home elementary school. Please call that school to schedule a visit.

Most elementary schools have SCHEDULED VISITATION DAYS OR "ROUND-UP" DAYS around registration.

You and your child should plan to participate in these activities to help both of you get acquainted with the new building. Call your home elementary school for more information. Information may also be sent home from preschool, noted in the preschool newsletter and sometimes published in the local newspaper.



Kindergarten Registration

Registration is held at each elementary school
On Wednesday, February 8th, 2012

Look for information sent home from preschool for specific times or contact your home elementary school.

REMEMBER TO BRING:

1. A copy of your child's **IMMUNIZATIONS** - The district's Early Childhood program will forward your child's Immunization records electronically to their home elementary schools.

****Please note that additional immunizations are due when a child turns 5 years old including the 5th DPT, the 4th Polio and the 2nd MMR.****

Please contact your health provider and arrange to have your child's immunizations updated prior to starting kindergarten; documentation of the updated immunizations will need to be given to the school.

2. Your Proof of Residence (example: utility bill)
3. A copy of your child's **BIRTH CERTIFICATE**
4. **ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS** of doctors, relatives and/or friends that can be included on Emergency Cards. These cards will be completed at Registration.
5. Any **OTHER INFORMATION** that may be helpful to the school, for example, special health or family concerns.

Transitioning a Child who has an Individual Education Program

Many children with active IEPs will attend their home elementary school; occasionally an IEP team, including the parents, will determine that the student will benefit most from attending a school outside of their attendance area. A transition meeting may be scheduled where the parent(s), the preschool staff and representatives from the child's home/designated school will share information. This meeting may occur at the elementary school or at the preschool, and is designed to offer the elementary school staff an opportunity to learn more about the child's educational needs.

The team of specialists in an elementary school usually consists of a Resource Teacher, a School Psychologist, a Speech/Language Therapist, an Occupational Therapist and/or an Intensive Learning Center Teacher. Additional services may also be provided by a Vision Specialist, a teacher for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and/or a Physical Therapist depending on the student's educational needs.

Some children with IEPs may need to be re-evaluated prior to starting kindergarten and/or their 6th birthday, especially if they have been identified as a "Preschool Child with a Disability". If reassessment is necessary, parents will be asked to sign the "Consent for Evaluation" sometime during the year before kindergarten. The assessment may include standardized evaluations in addition to classroom observations/teacher reports. Following the assessment procedure a meeting will be held to determine if your child is still eligible for services and how those needs will be addressed.



If your child is eligible for Transportation on their IEP, representatives from your child's kindergarten school and the district's Transportation Department will work with you.

Records Transfer

The Early Childhood Program will transfer the following records to your child's home elementary school:

1. Any Health Care Plan
2. Immunization Record
3. IEP / Progress Reports
4. Curriculum Progress Reports



TRANSITION ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

FOR PARENTS

My child's school: _____ Phone: _____

Gather all information needed for Registration:

_____ Immunizations / Health forms

_____ Proof of Residence

_____ Birth Certificate

_____ Phone Numbers/Addresses (doctor, relatives, friends) for
Emergency Card

_____ Any other needed information

Information to share with the Kindergarten:

My Child's Strengths:

My Child's Needs:

Questions to ask Kindergarten:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

HOME ACTIVITIES

Everyone wants their child to feel comfortable starting Kindergarten. Here are some things you can do to help your child have a positive experience in kindergarten.

1. Make friends with the school

- Point out your child's new school when driving or walking by – "That's *your* school!"
- Use the playground so your child becomes familiar with the environment and playground equipment.
- Meet the Principal and some Teachers – It's a good idea to let them know you and your child are coming to their school and that you want to stay in touch with them.
- Visit the kindergarten classroom, school library, lunch room – Things won't look so strange to your child on the first day if you can visit ahead of time (be sure to call the school to schedule an appointment).

2. Practice Social Skills

- Sharing
- Waiting
- Using words to communicate
- Safety Rules – We keep ourselves safe, We keep each other safe, We keep our things safe.

3. Practice Listening

- Following simple directions – When your child is being your helper, let her practice 1 and 2-part directions.
- Looking at the person who is talking – It also helps to model this for children.

4. Independence

- Dressing – It will help the Kindergarten teacher and build your child's self esteem if he can get his jacket and boots on and off.
- Toileting – The Kindergarten staff will be sure your child knows where the bathroom is.
- Spending time apart – You will probably be spending a lot of time together in the summer, so school will be a change from the summer routine. Build in some play dates at friends' homes.

5. Basic Skills

- Counting games
- Identifying letters
- Seeing shapes and colors
- Read, read, read
- Sing songs, repeat rhymes
- Go places
- Write

6. Stay Healthy

- Eat nutritious food
- Play outdoors
- Limit TV and computer time
- Get enough sleep (about 10 hours a night)
- Start moving towards a school day schedule of bedtime and wake-up time a few weeks before school starts.

