

REGISTERING FOR KINDERGARTEN

If You're a Dad

NOW is the time to register for kindergarten for the coming school year!



To register your child for kindergarten, you'll need paperwork that verifies your caretaker status.

IF YOU ARE MARRIED OR HAVE CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD, you'll need to find out what paperwork your school district needs for enrollment. Typically, schools require:

- **Birth certificate** For Cuyahoga County, from City of Cleveland Bureau of Vital Statistics or online at odhgateway.odh.ohio.gov/OrderBirthCertificates/
- **Immunization records** from the child's doctor or clinic
- **Proof of residence** Varies by district. Driver's license, state ID or passport plus 2 of these: utility bill, lease/rental agreement, mortgage, deed, tax statement, payroll form, etc.
- **Guardianship records*** (if needed)
Court documentation, divorce decree, shared parenting plan, caretaker authorization
** May need to be notarized.*

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD, and you're **FILING FOR CUSTODY,** you'll need:

- **Proof of paternity** if the applicant is the father.
- **Your marital status.**
- **Names, current addresses, and birth dates of both parents.**
- **Name of the person the child is living with.**
- **Address** where the child is currently living.
- **Name and birth date of the child.**
- **The child's birth certificate.**
- **The child's social security card.**
- **Filing fee** (or an affidavit of indigency if you qualify).

If filing for custody,

YOU'LL NEED LEGAL HELP:

- You can hire an attorney, or
- You can file for custody yourself. You'll find information and documents at the Pro Se Center, in the Office of Mediation at the Juvenile Court, located at the Juvenile Justice Center, 9300 Quincy Avenue, Second Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; phone (216) 443-3149.

YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE AT LEAST ONE COURT APPEARANCE.

YOU'LL NEED TO START RIGHT AWAY!

Getting this information together, filing documents and going to Court take time. Don't wait!



FIND OUT MORE at www.marchintokindergarten.com or dial 2-1-1 to connect to your district.

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Tips for Dads of New Kindergartners

GIVE YOUR CHILD A GOOD START

In today's kindergarten, much is expected of children. They learn writing, words and counting skills that lead to later school success. Help your child be ready. Offer opportunities to draw, build, play games and learn letters and numbers. Give them chores and encourage sharing.

VISIT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Kindergarten is a big change, and your child may feel anxious about separating from you, especially if you're a divorced parent. He or she will feel more comfortable seeing the classroom, knowing where things are and meeting the teacher.

GET INVOLVED IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students whose parents are involved are more likely to earn higher grades, graduate and go to college. Attend parent conferences and school events, stay in contact with the teacher, join school organizations like the PTO and volunteer to help out whenever time permits.

ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Get up early enough to avoid a morning rush. Check your child's folder or backpack daily for notes, alerts, newsletters and assignments. Set aside a regular time for homework each day and provide a quiet spot. If you share custody, make sure you and the other parent have similar expectations.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S INTERESTS

Ask your child about the school day, what he or she enjoyed doing or seeing and any special things that happened. Support your child's interests and talents. Give praise and encouragement.

READ TO YOUR CHILD

Reading is essential to school success and lifelong growth. Read to your child every day. Once your child learns to read, encourage reading on his or her own. Set limits on TV, internet time and video games.

BE A ROLE MODEL

Children learn in part by watching their parents. Be patient, understanding and show your child how to speak well, settle disagreements and care about others through your own example.

GET THE SUPPORT YOU NEED

You'll find support by networking with other fathers and through organizations like the Fatherhood Initiative (fatherhoodinitiative.cuyahogacounty.us) in Cuyahoga County, which also offers helpful resources. Call 2-1-1 for names of other organizations.

Thanks to the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative and the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for supplying this information.

FIND OUT MORE at www.marchintokindergarten.com

