

2014-2015

# WELCOME TO PRE-K



**NYC** Department of  
Education

Bill de Blasio  
Mayor

Carmen Fariña  
Chancellor

**PRE-K**  
**FOR ALL**

دليل الترحيب بصف الروضة لعائلات مدينة نيويورك هذا يمكن الحصول عليه باللغة العربية من مدرستك أو من الرابط التالي:  
[schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)

বাংলা ভাষায় অনুদিত নিউ ইয়র্ক সিটির পরিবারগুলির জন্য প্রি-কে গাইডে স্বাগতম প্রকাশনাটি আপনার  
স্কুলে কিংবা অনলাইনে পাওয়া যাবে এই ঠিকানায়: [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)

您可以到子女的學校或在以下網址找到翻譯成中文的  
「給紐約市家長的歡迎來到學前班指南」: [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)

Vous pouvez trouver la version française de ce guide de bienvenue en pré-K, pour les familles de la  
Ville de New York, à l'école de votre enfant, ou en ligne à : [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)

Ou ka jwenn Gid Byenveni nan Pre-K pou Fanmi Vil Nouyòk sa a an Kreyòl Ayisyen nan lekòl ou a  
oswa sou entènèt la a: [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)

뉴욕시 가정 대상 유아원(Pre-K) 안내서의 한국어 번역본은 여러분의 학교나 다음의  
웹사이트에서 찾아보실 수 있을 것입니다: [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)

Русский перевод руководства для родителей «Добро пожаловать в Pre-K» имеется в вашей школе  
и на сайте: [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)

Este Manual de bienvenida al prekínder para familias de NYC, se puede encontrar en español en su  
escuela o por internet en: [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)

نیویارک شہر کے خاندانوں کے لیے اردو زبان میں پری کنڈرگارٹن میں خوش  
آمدید کا یہ رہنما کتابچہ آپ کے اسکول میں یا آن لائن یہاں دستیاب  
ہے: [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)



# Welcome to Pre-K for All!

Dear Parent,

We are delighted that you have decided to enroll your child in New York City's system of free, full-day, high-quality pre-K education programs. Pre-K is a wonderful opportunity for all our four year olds: it gives them the foundation they need for Kindergarten and a lifetime of learning.

Our highly trained and dedicated teachers and administrators have created safe and structured classrooms with joyful and enriching lessons for our pre-K students. Your child will learn important skills, like how to work with other children, ask questions, solve problems, and learn new vocabulary.

In this booklet, you will find important information about what you and your child can expect from pre-K, and how to prepare for a successful school year.

New York City has made a historic commitment to providing families like yours with free, full-day, high-quality pre-K. We hope you are as excited as we are for the first school year of Pre-K for All, and we wish you and your child the best as you join our public education system.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Bill de Blasio**

**Chancellor Carmen Fariña**

# A Time to Learn and Grow

Through Pre-K for All, children from communities throughout the city can benefit from an extra year of high-quality learning. Whether your child is in a district public school, a Community-Based Early Childhood Center (CBECC), or a charter school, he or she will be in a safe learning environment with many opportunities to explore, create, participate in fun learning activities, and socialize with other children and adults. Developing these skills now will help your child thrive in school, at home, and in life.

In pre-K, your child will start gaining the knowledge and skills needed to graduate from high school prepared for college and careers, as set forth by the Common Core Learning Standards. The standards in pre-K, known as the New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core, specify five key areas of learning and development, also known as domains.

5 Domains	In pre-K, children:
<b>1 Approaches to Learning</b>	Develop creativity and curiosity. Learn how to solve problems and stay focused on tasks through various approaches that spur a child’s creativity and curiosity.
<b>2 Physical Development and Health</b>	Engage in activities to build strong muscles and eye-hand coordination. Learn safe, healthy practices, such as hand-washing and the importance of wearing seatbelts.
<b>3 Social and Emotional Growth</b>	Form positive relationships at home, school, and in the larger community; for example, by learning how to express feelings, share, and take turns.
<b>4 Communication and Language Skills</b>	Children learn to listen, tell stories, ask questions, and communicate with others using more complex words in conversations.
<b>5 Knowledge of the World</b>	Learn numbers; count to 20. Compare objects of various sizes. Understand and describe earth, space, and living things.



# Pre-K Class Activities and Tips for Supporting Learning at Home

Pre-K gives children the opportunity to build a foundation of skills, knowledge, and approaches to learning which will benefit them for years to come. Below are some typical classroom activities and some ideas of what will help reinforce your child's learning at home.

## Healthy Play

**In Pre-K:** Children play outside every day, weather permitting. Playing outside helps develop children's muscles, improves coordination, and reinforces healthy habits. The playground or park is a great place for children to learn social skills, like taking turns, talking to others, making friends, and getting along.

**At Home:** Take your child to the playground or park to explore. Venture outside to play games like hopscotch; jump rope; red light, green light; and drawing with sidewalk chalk.

## Reading Time

**In Pre-K:** Children listen to stories every day. Reading out loud encourages them to ask questions, learn new words, and discuss different characters and concepts. During this time, children develop listening, reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills. They are excited to hear what will happen each time the teacher turns the page.

**At Home:** Read different kinds of books with your child. Visit the library and check out storybooks and non-fiction books about animals, people, places, and things. Let your child take "picture walks" by telling you the story by looking at the pictures in a book. Ask questions about what may come next or why a person did something in the story.



## Activity Centers

**In Pre-K:** Programs organize activities by centers, or areas, and let children decide where they want to explore, discover, and learn each day. In one center, for example, children might read, write, build, cut, paint, and pretend. Other centers allow children to work alone or in groups. All of these activities teach children important social skills.

**At Home:** Allow your child to make decisions about what to wear to school or which color towel to use. Ask your child to decide what equipment to play on in the playground or which game to play with a friend. Afterwards, you can talk about the experience and ask how your child's plans went.

## Class Meetings

**In Pre-K:** Children come together and become a community of learners, explorers, and friends. They discuss the plan for the day. They build language skills by listening and responding to stories, singing songs, and reciting nursery rhymes.

**At Home:** Make a special time to sing songs, share stories, and recite poems with your child. Tell stories about things you and your family did when you were young and ask what your child thinks.

## Small Group Time

**In Pre-K:** Children spend focused time with the teacher and other students when they are in small groups. With the teacher's support, they develop new knowledge and practice what they learn with their classmates.

**At Home:** Spend time with your child, one-on-one when possible. Have conversations about what your child learned at school. During bath time, talk about the day, favorite activities, and friends.

**What happens in pre-K matters!**



**Pre-K is the first step toward preparing your child for college and a future career.**



## Meal Time

**In Pre-K:** Children participate in meal time. Meals are often set up family style so children can serve themselves and continue learning social skills. Teachers often eat with children, modeling manners and conversation.

**At Home:** Develop routines for meal times. Let your child help prepare by setting the table. Afterwards, your child can help clear the table, put dishes in the sink, or place utensils in drawers.

# 10 Tips for a Smooth Transition into Pre-K

Research shows that when parents and families are involved with their children's education and when children are well supported in their transition to school, children tend to perform better in school, enjoy school more, and stay in school longer.<sup>1</sup> Below are some tips you can use to support your child's transition into pre-K.<sup>2</sup>

- 1 Take your child to the library to enjoy story time so your child hears other people read to her in a group setting.
- 2 Develop a routine of early bedtime and early wake-up time before school starts so your child can adapt to a new schedule.
- 3 Talk with your child about what he is most looking forward to in September. Make a book at home about the new pre-K experience he is about to begin.
- 4 Help your child write her name on her school book bag or other items.
- 5 Look for childhood photos of yourself and family members, and tell stories about what it was like when you went to school.
- 6 Allow a trusted caregiver to take care of your child for short periods of time if he has never been cared for by someone outside your family. Reassure your child that you will return and that he is safe with others.

<sup>1</sup>Marielle Bohan-Baker, Priscilla M.D. Little Harvard Family Research Project, 2002; Ramey & Ramey, 1994; The High Scope Perry Preschool Project: Lifetime Effects; The HighScope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40 (2005) <http://www.highscope.org/content.asp?contentid=219>

<sup>2</sup>Some of the tips presented here are adapted from the article "13 Tips for Starting Preschool," by Diane Tunis, Rhonda Kleiner, and Fredda Band Löewenstein, available on the web at <http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/music-math-more/13-tips-starting-preschool>.



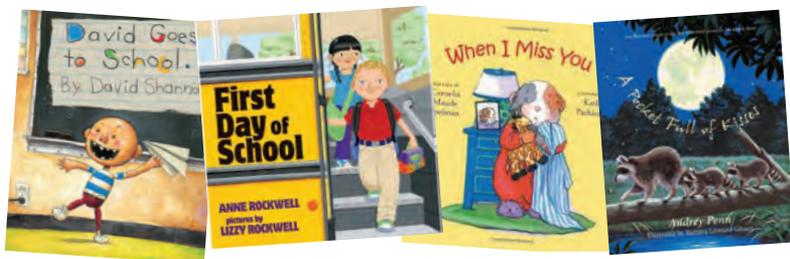
**7** Have your child put a picture of yourself or your family in her backpack to remind her she will see you soon. You can also have your child take a favorite toy to school to make her feel at home.

**8** Here are books about starting school and saying goodbye. When you read these books with your child, talk about how the family always returns. Some transition books are:

- ***David Goes to School*** by David Shannon
- ***Love You Forever*** by Robert Munsch
- ***Franklin Goes to School*** by Paulette Bourgeois
- ***I Love You Little One*** by Nancy Tafuri
- ***You Go Away*** by Dorothy Corey
- ***First Day of School*** by Anne Rockwell
- ***When I Miss You*** by Cornelia Maude Spelman
- ***It's Time for Preschool*** by Esme Raj Codell
- ***A Pocketful of Kisses*** by Audrey Penn

**9** Adjusting to separation takes time. At the beginning, your child may feel anxious or upset. This is normal. Acknowledge how he feels and support him to cope better each day.

**10** Help your child understand that this is a new adventure and that you will share it together.



**2014–2015 School Year Calendar for District Public School Pre-K**

Schedules for Community-Based Early Childhood Centers (CBECCs) and charter schools may vary. Please contact your school for additional details.

Sept. 1	Labor Day (schools closed)
Sept. 4	First Day of School; partial school time for public school pre-K students
Sept. 5	Partial school time for public school pre-K students
Sept. 8	First full-day for public school pre-K students
Sept. 25 – 26	Rosh Hashanah (schools closed)
Oct. 13	Columbus Day observed (schools closed)
Oct. 23	No school for public school pre-K students
Early Oct. – Early Nov.	Period to submit a Request for Testing (RFT) form for the 2015-2016 Gifted and Talented (G & T) programs*
Nov. 4	Election Day; students not in attendance
Nov. 11	Veterans Day observed (schools closed)
Nov. 20	No school for public school pre-K students
Nov. 27–28	Thanksgiving Recess (schools closed)
Dec. 24 – Jan. 2	Winter Recess (schools closed); students return Jan. 5
Jan.	Kindergarten application period begins*
Jan. – Feb.	G & T assessments conducted*
Jan. 19	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (schools closed)
Jan. 29	No school for public school pre-K students
Feb.	Kindergarten application deadline*
Feb. 16 – 20	Midwinter Recess (schools closed)
April	G & T score reports and applications sent to eligible students; G & T applications due*
April	Kindergarten placement offers distributed in early April; Kindergarten pre-registration starts late April*
April 3 – 10	Spring Recess (schools closed); students return April 1
April 23	No school for public school pre-K students
Late May	G & T decision letters sent to families*
May 25	Memorial Day observed (schools closed)
Early June	Families accept/decline G & T placement offers*
June 4	Chancellor's Conference Day; students not in attendance
June 26	Last day of school for all public school students

\* These events apply to all children born in 2010 residing in New York City who will enter public school Kindergarten in the 2015-2016 school year.

For the full public school and parent teacher conferences schedule, please visit:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Calendar>.

- To **learn more about pre-K** and how you can support your child's learning and development outside the classroom, please visit:  
[schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood)
- For information on Special Education services in pre-K, please visit:  
[schools.nyc.gov/specialeducation](https://schools.nyc.gov/specialeducation)
- For information on Kindergarten Admissions, please visit:  
[schools.nyc.gov/kindergarten](https://schools.nyc.gov/kindergarten)
- For information on Gifted and Talented programming starting in Kindergarten, please visit:  
[schools.nyc.gov/gt](https://schools.nyc.gov/gt)
- To stay connected, visit:  
[schools.nyc.gov/subscribe](https://schools.nyc.gov/subscribe)

We are excited to have you as our partners, and look forward to giving your child the opportunity to learn, grow, and achieve.



New York City Department of Education  
Division of Early Childhood Education  
**Email:** [earlychildhood@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:earlychildhood@schools.nyc.gov)  
**Website:** [schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood](https://schools.nyc.gov/earlychildhood) or [nyc.gov/prek](https://nyc.gov/prek)  
**Telephone:** 212-374-0351



Bill de Blasio  
Mayor

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## MY PRE-K CHILD

To ease your child's transition into pre-K, please answer the following questions and give this form to your child's teacher during the first weeks of school.

1. Your child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Brothers /sisters: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Eating habits (special foods or dietary restrictions)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Allergies /medications\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Other languages spoken at home: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who cares for your child before and after school? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***\*Please make sure to share this information with the school nurse and other staff members caring for your child.***

7. What are your child's favorite activities? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What is your child's favorite toy? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. What are your child's greatest strengths? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What are your hopes and dreams for your child? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. What do you most want your child to learn this year? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Do you have special talents, interests, cultural celebrations, or work that you might like to share? For example, playing an instrument, keeping a garden, teaching about pets, sewing, or carpentry. \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Please share any concerns you may have: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thank You and Welcome to Pre-K!**