



## Georgia's Pre-K Program Ideas for Kindergarten Transition

- Provide opportunities for children to participate in activities led by adults less familiar to the children. For example: Invite another teacher or the media specialist to read to the children or guide them through an activity. Encourage the children to accept and interact with unfamiliar adults in the classroom.
- Adjust your instruction and daily schedule throughout the year to meet the developmental needs of children for that time of year. For example: Extend small and large group times by 5-10 minutes, decrease rest time to less than 60 minutes, or add an additional small or large group activity during the day.
- Provide children with various reading experiences. Invite others into the class to read to individuals, small groups, or the entire class.
- Read books relating to kindergarten throughout the year so that children will build background knowledge and become familiar with expectations.
- Encourage parents to get library cards for their children and to participate in library activities, like story times, throughout the summer. Ensure that parents know where the closest library is located.
- Create a "Class Mascot" such as a teddy bear that can travel home with children for the weekend. Have children dictate to their parents what the mascot and family did together over the weekend. Let the child bring the story into class and share.
- Set up a lending library for Pre-K children. Have familiar books on tape, or taped voices of people they know reading a story to them!
- Provide writing opportunities for children every day. Children can "sign in" each day to begin learning the purpose of writing. Provide children access to writing centers every day to refine writing skills!
- Create celebrations when children accomplish new tasks. For example: Create a special display to celebrate when children have read a book, learned to write their names, played well with peers, or learned to tie their shoes!

- Create literacy/math “take home” packets for the children to complete at home. Ensure that the activities are hands-on, and encourage parents to help their child with the activities. The packets could include: file folder games, books to read and draw about, counting items in a room of the house, locating items of different shapes at home and creating a picture or list of them.
- Encourage independence in developing and using self-help skills. Remember: zipping and fastening, tying shoe laces, cleaning up learning centers, opening milk cartons and straw wrappers, carrying a tray, and independent hand washing.
- Talk positively to children about starting kindergarten. Discuss kindergarten expectations and how they will be different and/or similar to Pre-K. Have children share their feelings and ask questions too.
- Develop and distribute classroom newsletters about activities and events in the class to inform parents about the child’s day and the classroom.
- Visit kindergarten locations. Encourage public schools in your area to invite your children to carnivals, field days, and book fairs. Parents may be able to take their children to these events.
- Invite families to participate in small group discussion about kindergarten expectations and share ways they can become involved in their child’s new school experience.
- Encourage parents to link children with other peers who will attend the same elementary school during the summer. This is a great opportunity for children to build friendships.
- Provide follow-up through a phone call, e-mail, or postcard to kindergarten families during the first few weeks of school to give support during this transition to school. Families may have questions or need additional support.