

2020 Kindergarten Transition Panel Summary

Overview

Two kindergarten transition panels were held during the week of December 7th, 2020. The panel served as an opportunity for parents to learn more about Kindergarten public school representatives from five Tulsa area school districts: Broken Arrow, Jenks, Sand Springs, Tulsa, and Union Public Schools. The event opened with an introduction of transitions as a topic, a review of how parents can prepare for Kindergarten, and concluded with a panel exchange framed by frequently asked questions and questions from the attendees.

The panelists were as follows:

Broken Arrow Public Schools

Kay Long

Union Public Schools

Kathy Quick

Sand Springs Public Schools

Bonnie Larkin
Karen Biggs
Morgan Douglas

Jenks Public Schools

Vickie Campbell
Amy Ruiz
Van Mung

Tulsa Public Schools

Jordan Sheffield- Mix
Divanny Perez- Gutierrez

Transitions

<p>What is a Transition? A transition is a psychological process that occurs in response to new situations and life events brought about by change.</p>	<p>Transitions impact our emotional, physical, intellectual, and psychological development.</p> <p>Life transitions can be positive or negative and planned or unplanned (often occurring without warning).</p>	<p>Transitions impact children and adults in the same way.</p>
<p>Why is Kindergarten Important? Kindergarten is one of the most significant transitions in a child's life.</p>	<p>Kindergarten transitions represent <i>an end</i> to what your child has grown accustomed to in pre-school. The first day of Kindergarten will mark <i>the beginning</i> of new expectations, routines, relationships with peers and teachers.</p>	<p>Your child has made progress towards kindergarten readiness but may still experience anxiety about starting school.</p>
<p>How can I prepare?</p>	<p>Parents can ease nervousness and uncertainty through strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement bedtime routines ▪ Talk to your child about Kindergarten ▪ Read books about Kindergarten ▪ Visit the new school or attend a virtual orientation ▪ Practice following directions 	<p>Enrollment processes vary between districts, so collect important information in advance of the school year.</p>

Questions asked during the panel discussions

- How do transitions affect children with special needs and developmental concerns?
- How is Kindergarten different from preschool?
- What does pick up and drop off look like?
- What does distance learning look like if my child's class, school, or district, moves to distance learning?
- Will Kindergarten provide support for my child who does not speak English as their first language?
- What is the teacher-to-child ratio?
- What type of tests will my child be given during the school year? How will I be informed of my child's progress?
- What is your district's enrollment process?
- Will my child have homework?
- Can I volunteer in my child's classroom?
- What is your district's sick policy?
- What kinds of qualifications do Kindergarten teachers have?
- What kind of discipline do you use?

Additional resources:

For parents looking for specific information about Tulsa Public Schools nearest to them visit:

<https://findaschool.tulsaschools.org/>

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