

Welcome to Kindergarten in Everett Public Schools!

Soon your child will be starting kindergarten. This is an exciting time and a major event for your child, you and your whole family. You are your child's first teacher and an important partner in their education. We welcome you to Everett Public Schools and invite you to work with us as a team to support your child's learning and success.

In kindergarten, your child will be part of a school community that is probably larger than what they have experienced before. There will be more teachers and children, as well as a variety of other school staff. Class sizes in kindergarten are usually in the mid 20's. Because of this, your child will have many opportunities to:

- Learn from a diverse group of classmates
- Work and play in groups
- Follow the routines of the classroom and the school
- Develop more independence and self-management skills

Your child will learn and play in a variety of settings – the kindergarten classroom, playground, gym, school library, and cafeteria. Your child may ride a school bus for the first time.

All kindergarten classes in Everett Public Schools are full day and have the same length of day as grades 1 through 5. To keep children engaged, kindergarten teachers change activities frequently. They move from quiet to active, alternate between large and small group and allow for individual choice time. The schedule will also include recess and lunch.



Washington
Kindergarten Inventory
of Developing Skills

The **Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)** is a transition process that helps to ensure a successful start to the K-12 experience and to connect the key adults in a child's life.

WaKIDS has three parts:

1. **Family connection** - Kindergarten teachers meet with families and students to welcome them to school and talk about each child's strengths and needs.
2. **Whole-child assessment** - By October 31, teachers observe and record each child's developing skills in six areas: social-emotional, physical, cognitive, language, literacy, and mathematics.
3. **Early learning collaboration** - As the school year progresses, early learning professionals and kindergarten teachers collaborate to support student learning and smooth transitions for children.

Therefore, the start of school is different for families of kindergarten students:

- Instead of sending your child to school on the first day of school when other students begin, your family members and your child are invited to meet with the kindergarten teacher in a special appointment on one of the first days when other students have begun school.
- This process helps you and your child's teacher begin to build a relationship, offering a smooth start to school and providing opportunities for everyone to begin to work as partners, supporting your child's learning.
- This one-on-one meeting is intended to welcome your family to school and provide a safe environment for you to speak freely with your child's teacher.
- The appointment will be scheduled in advance.
- Your school will be contacting you regarding your family's appointment.
- The meeting will be held at your child's school.