



# It All Begins on May 4, 2024!



Before you know it, the first day of kindergarten will be here, and we want you and your child to feel confident and prepared as you approach this important milestone. We hope you will use this guide and the 100 days until kindergarten to spend a few minutes each day talking, reading, exploring, writing, creating, and playing with your child. Take a peek inside! You will find resources, ideas, and tips to support you and your child as you transition to kindergarten.



## We'll see you in 100 days!



In the meantime, if you need any assistance feel free to give us a call or check out our web page.

Student Assignment Office (727) 588-6210  
Early Childhood Office (727) 588-6513  
Early Childhood Website [pcsb.org/kg](https://pcsb.org/kg)

# Take the 100 Book Challenge!

Research clearly shows that reading to children at a young age has a direct effect on schooling outcomes including reading and cognitive skills later in life. Reading to children also lets them know that you consider it a worthwhile activity and will help them learn to fall in love with books. We challenge you and your child to read a book each day from May 2 until the first day of kindergarten. Happy reading!

## Find Some Great Books!

You might be asking yourself, 'where am I going to get 100 books?!' There are plenty of places to find great books:

**Start or add** to a home library for your child. Books make great presents!

**Join the FREE** Pinellas Public Library Cooperative at [www.pplc.us](http://www.pplc.us). You can get a library card and visit the library or check out digital books online. You'll also find great programs for your child.

**Check out** these free online resources:

- myON Pinellas is a free, online library for children in Pinellas county.
- Storyline Online features popular children's books being read aloud by celebrated actors.
- Get Epic is a free, online library. Children can choose one book each day.
- Unite for Literacy is a free, mostly non-fiction digital library. Knowledge is power! Explore topics your child is interested in.

**Don't forget,** nothing is better than sharing a story with your child.

## Encouraging a Love of Reading: Tips for Reading Books Together

Whether you are snuggled up with a printed book or nestled together with a tablet to enjoy a digital book, try these tips:

- Let your child choose what book to read. Don't worry if they want to hear the same book again.
- If you can, find a quiet spot free from distractions like the TV.
- Sit close together. Encourage your child to help you hold the book or tablet and turn the pages.
- Look closely at the pictures together. They help your child understand the book.
- Talk with your child about the book. Ask questions. Make comments. Explore new vocabulary and give child-friendly definitions.
- If you are reading a digital book, stay with your child. Interact the same way that you would with a printed book.
- Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to enjoy a book.



# Families often ask, “What can I do to help my child get ready for kindergarten?”

We’ve got you covered! Keep reading for tips and resources to prepare you for the first day of kindergarten.

## It all matters!

Being ready for kindergarten is about way more than the ABCs and 123s and we want to be sure we are helping children grow in all areas of their development. Consider the following:

**Social and Emotional Development** is critical to children’s success in kindergarten and includes things such as recognizing and managing feelings, taking turns and sharing, and using words to solve problems.

**Physical Development** impacts other areas of development. Activities include physical play, safety, nutrition, and personal care.

**Approaches to Learning** involves children’s attitudes and how they approach learning such as persistence, curiosity, attention to tasks, planning and creativity.

**Language and Literacy** development is a complex process that involves speaking and listening and emergent reading and writing. Children are participating in conversations, enjoying books more and asking questions, and naming letters and connecting them to sounds.

**Mathematical Thinking** helps children make sense of the world. It involves counting, putting quantities together and taking them apart, identifying patterns and shapes, and measuring.

**Scientific Inquiry and Social Studies** helps children explore and learn about the world around them.

**Creative Expression Through the Arts** provides opportunities for children to express ideas and feelings in different ways such as music, creative movement, play, and art.

## Get Ready to Read

**Reading a book together with your child** is the most important activity you can do to prepare your child to succeed as a reader. Fill your story times with a variety of books. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world around them. It helps them develop language, sharpen their listening skills and begin to understand how books and print work.

**Make reading part of family life** by reading aloud to your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. Don’t worry if your child wants to hear the same book over and over. While it may be boring for you, hearing the same book provides predictability and builds confidence in early readers.

**Be consistent, be patient and watch your child fall in love with books.**

**Don’t Worry!  
We’ve Got You Covered!**

Over the summer, check out [pcsb.org/kg](http://pcsb.org/kg) for resources based on the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards and current kindergarten teacher input. These resources will help your child enter kindergarten with joy and confidence!

# Kindergarten Enrollment Express

## 3 Simple Steps!



All Aboard! Scan the QR Code to Get Started!

1

### Get a Pinellas County Schools User ID and Password

Parents can create a Focus Portal Account at [focus.pcsb.org](http://focus.pcsb.org).

2

### Reserve a Seat Online

Log onto [focus.pcsb.org](http://focus.pcsb.org) using your PCS user ID and password.

### Complete Enrollment at your Child's School

Visit your child's assigned school and deliver your required documents:

3

- Two forms of proof of residency
- Birth certificate/proof of date of birth
- Florida Certificate of Immunization
- Physical Examination Certificate

Get started: [pcsb.org/kg](http://pcsb.org/kg)

