

More Resources

- For tips by texts, text GAREADY to 313131
- GKIDS Readiness Check <http://gkidsreadinesscheck.gadoe.org/>
- Georgia Department of Education, www.parents.gadoe.org
- <http://www.getreadytoread.org/transition-kindergarten-toolkit>
- Coweta County Library, www.cowt.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default/
- Odyssey's Kindergarten Transition Page <http://tiny.cc/OdysseyK>

Contact Us

Questions about Transitions?

Our Parent Involvement Coordinator, Jennifer Priser, can help.

Email: PIC@odysseycharterschool.net

Phone: 770-251-6111 ext. 239

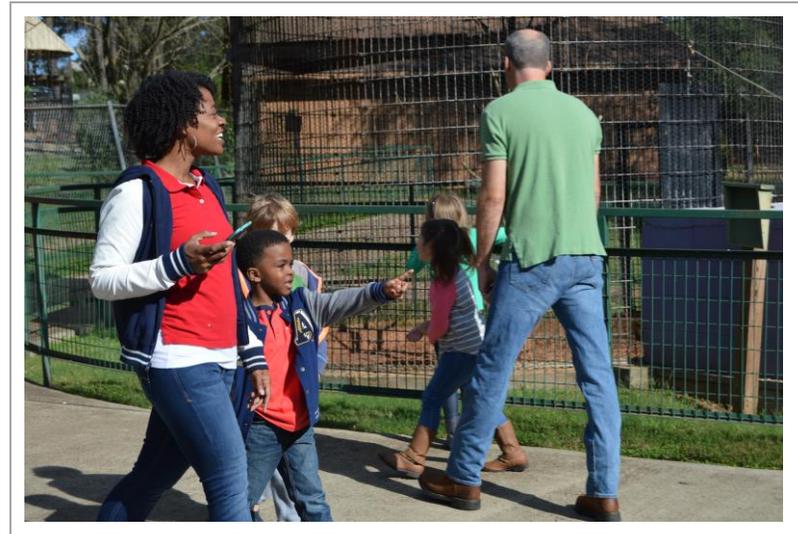
Questions about Registration or Admission?

Our Registrar, Jill Chester, can help.

Email: JChester@odysseycharterschool.net

Phone: 770-251-6111 ext. 234

A Guide for Families on Kindergarten Transition

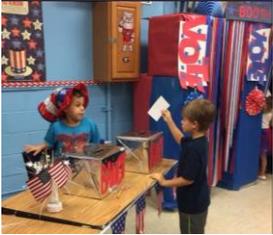


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Parent and Family Engagement



Welcome to the Journey

Got questions? We've got answers!

This booklet will answer:

1. What is a school transition?
2. What does a transition into Odyssey mean for my family?
3. How do I help my child transition into kindergarten?
4. What will my child learn in kindergarten?
5. How will I know how my child is doing in kindergarten?
6. How can I be involved in my child's school and education?
7. What is the process for admissions and registration at Odyssey?

1. What is a school transition?

A school transition is a process that prepares students and families to move from one educational setting to another. Families need to develop the knowledge, skills, and relationships that help support their student in the movement.

The first school transition a child normally experiences is moving from home to a prekindergarten program. Sometimes a child doesn't experience the change until they come to kindergarten. It can be very stressful and exciting to leave a familiar place and go to a new place. Schools often introduce children to new rules, other children, teachers, buildings, and expectations. A smooth transition to kindergarten can help your child be more successful in school. School success in Kindergarten is both academic and social.

8. What documents will I need to register at Odyssey?

Requirement	Documents	Where to get
Legal Proof of Age —Must be 5 by September 1st	*Certified birth certificate <i>OR</i> *Student Military ID *Passport *Adoption Record	Georgia Department of Community Health http://dpg.georgia.gov 404-679-4702 Newnan Probate Court 200 Court Square Newnan, GA 30263
Proof of Residence	*Electric, cable or home telephone bill AND *Rental contract, mortgage statement, property tax statement, or property deed	
Health	*Immunization Form 3231 AND *Vision, Hearing, and Dental Exam form 3300	Your child's doctor OR GA Department of Public Health Newnan Branch 70 Hospital Road Newnan, GA 30263 770-254-7400
U.S. Identification	*Social Security Card	U.S. Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov 1-800-772-1213 Newnan Branch 246 Bullsboro Dr. Newnan, GA 30263
Student Information	*Odyssey Registration Packet *Parent or Guardian photo ID *Any official, notarized court/custody paperwork	

4. What is my child going to learn in kindergarten?

Odyssey follows the Georgia Standards of Excellence and Georgia Performance Standards which gives clear guidelines to our school about what must be learned in each grade. These guidelines are for teaching the subjects to our students, testing what our students are learning and the work our students are doing. For more information about Georgia's curriculum standards and free resources to help support your child at home visit GeorgiaStandards.org or call 1-800-311-3627.



5. How will I know what my child is learning in kindergarten?

The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills, or GKIDS, is used for all Georgia kindergarteners. GKIDS is a year-long assessment. That means that the students are not expected to be able to meet every skill at the beginning of the year. They are expected to be able to meet the skill by the end of the year. For more information, check out “A Parent’s Guide to GKIDS” pamphlet. Students are measured using two to five performance levels:

Performance Level	Explanation of Performance Level
Not Yet Demonstrated	The student hasn’t shown this skill yet.
Emerging	The student is beginning to show this skill.
Progressing	The student is on track with this skill.
Meets the Standard	The student has successfully met the requirements of this skill.
Exceeds the Standard	The student is showing ability greater than what is required for this skill.

6. How can I be involved in my child’s school and education?

Children whose parents and families are involved in their education are more successful in school! There are many ways you can be involved even before your child enters kindergarten.

- **Look at the school’s online calendar for upcoming meetings to attend.** *Ex.: Parent-Teacher Organization or School Board*
- **Look at the school’s online calendar to plan for important dates.** *Ex.: Academic Parent Teacher Team meetings or holidays*
- **Be an informed parent.** *You can sign up for the school emails. Read the school policies and procedures. Check out our social media pages.*
- **Work on kindergarten readiness skills.** *Use the skills in the “Off to a Good Start” and “Ready to Read” booklet to practice skills to make sure your child is ready for kindergarten.*

Once your child begins school you can

- **Volunteer in the classroom or on field trips.** *All volunteers must complete required volunteer training before participating.*
- **Share your ideas.** *Be a part of the School Improvement Committee. Participate in surveys. Be in contact with family engagements.*
- **Attend workshops.** *Family engagement offers many different workshops to help you help your child at home. There are also workshops offered to help you better understand the tests your child is taking and how to monitor your child’s progress in school.*
- **Show your child that education is important.** *Talk to your child about what happens at school. Monitor your child’s progress.*
- **Stay informed.** *Please read every handout and paper that comes home with your child. The school and teacher websites also contain a lot of useful information.*
- **Make school a priority.** *Arrive to school on time. Schedule appointments and vacations outside of school hours.*

You are your child's first and lifelong teacher. You are a partner in his or her education—at both school and home.

7. What is the process for admissions and registration at Odyssey?

Odyssey admits kindergarten students through a lottery. The steps for admission are below:

1. Complete the Application for Admission.
2. Attend the school lottery
OR
Wait to get a letter in the mail.
3. If your child is selected in the lottery, you must complete the Registration Packet and bring all registration documents to our Registrar by the deadline in your acceptance letter.



Odyssey first graders made goods to sell to the kindergarteners as part of an economics lesson on goods and services.

2. What does transition into Odyssey mean for our family?

At Odyssey, school is a family activity. We encourage parent and family engagement through Academic Parent Teacher Teams meetings, student-led conferences, a Parent-Teacher Organization, field trips, and many other opportunities for parents and families to be actively involved in their child's education. It is important to show your child that education is important by participating at school and at home.

3. How can I help my child transition into kindergarten?

- Talk enthusiastically with your child about starting kindergarten and what he or she will experience when they arrive.
- Read to your child every day for 15 to 20 minutes.
- Have your child practice self-help skills such as buttoning his or her pants, washing hands, using the bathroom, and eating at the table.
- Make sure your child knows important personal information such as his or her name, parents' names, address and phone number.
- Get your child and your family into a morning and bedtime routine. Practice these at least a month before school starts.
- Plan how your child will get to and from school, including school bus routes, carpool schedules, or pick-up and drop-off times.
- Learn the school day hours and make arrangements for before and after school care, if needed.
- Ask for the school calendar so you can plan ahead for school holidays.
- Sign-up for school emails and check out the school & teacher websites.
- Read the "Off to a Good Start" booklet and Kindergarten Ready to Read. Use the ideas to work on skills over the summer.
- Attend the Meet the Teacher night before school starts.