

## Questions to Ask to Move the Conversation Beyond “Fine” and “Nothing”

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- What was the funniest thing that happened today?
- Who made you smile today?
- What new fact did you learn today?
- What challenged you today?
- What was the best part of your day?
- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- What rule was the hardest to follow today?
- What was the nicest thing you did for someone else?
- What would you rate your day on a scale of 1 to 10? Why?
- If you had the chance to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?
- What is your teacher’s most important rule?
- When did you feel most proud of yourself today?

***Ask “Why do you think...?” questions and start a discussion!***



## When School Begins

1. Attendance Counts! Make sure your child attends daily and arrives on time!
2. Get to know your child’s teacher and the school by:
  - ◆ Visiting the classroom
  - ◆ Volunteering your help/time
  - ◆ Communicating with the teacher
  - ◆ Attend school events, parent-teacher conferences
  - ◆ Join PTA and other parent groups
3. Support what is expected:
  - ◆ Homework expectations—continue reading to your child every night
  - ◆ Reinforce positive behaviors
4. Continue healthy habits:
  - ◆ Established early bedtime
  - ◆ Good, healthy breakfast each morning (breakfast is served at school)
  - ◆ Positive morning routine—allow plenty of time for a great start
5. Talk with your child about school!



## STEP into Kindergarten

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Helping your child make a smooth transition to kindergarten

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**School District of Indian River County**

**STEP into Kindergarten**

**Summer Transition Enrichment Program**

**Krista Sadlers  
Title I Resource Teacher  
772-564-6180**

**Karen Malits  
Director of Federal Programs  
772-564-3096**

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## Help Prepare Your Child

- Find time to read together every day.
- Encourage your children to observe and talk about their experiences, as conversations with adults enrich a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world.
- Build language skills by talking to your child. Tell stories about your family and stories you enjoyed when you were a child. Ask grandparents and other family members to tell stories too. Write down some of these stories and the stories your children tell. Save them and read them aloud together.
- Make eye contact with your child while listening to them speak, showing them that you value what they say.
- Praise and encourage your child's efforts and curiosity, knowing that from mistakes come learning and confidence.

### Quick Tip!

Nursery rhymes and songs are easy for kids to remember. Say them and sing them along with the rest of the family! Rhymes help them learn letter sounds and develop oral language.

## 10 Things To Practice With Your Child Before Kindergarten

1. Expressing thoughts, ideas and feelings clearly
2. Asking and answering questions about experiences, events and stories
3. Writing first name with first letter in uppercase and the rest in lowercase
4. Grasping and using crayons, pencils and scissors
5. Identifying most upper and lowercase letters
6. Recognizing some letter sounds
7. Identifying basic colors and shapes
8. Counting orally and naming numerals 1-10
9. Counting objects up to 10
10. Drawing pictures to communicate ideas



### Quick Tip!

Play word games like I Spy. Say that you see something that begins with a certain letter sound and ask him or her to guess what it is. Reverse roles. Another game children enjoy playing is 20 Questions. Ask as many questions as you can about a topic.



## Socially Your Child Should Be Able To:

- Communicate needs.
- Use restroom independently including washing hands without reminder and adjusting own clothing before and after.
- Sit for a story for 5-10 minutes.
- Clean up after themselves.
- Take turns and share materials and toys with other children.
- Follow a set routine.
- Be confident and ready to separate from parent.
- Listen and follow 1-2 step directions.
- Resolve conflict appropriately.
- Be aware of and follow simple safety rules.