

Kindergarten Countdown!

Viewing Guide



Children have all kinds of feelings about the big step they are taking in starting kindergarten. They may be excited, proud they're getting bigger, and a little concerned at the same time. **Kindergarten Countdown** is a great way to open a conversation about what your child is thinking and feeling, especially when you watch the video together.

Set the stage

Casual conversations about starting school will help you understand what additional information or reassurance your child needs. Use the following questions to begin a discussion about kindergarten.

Before viewing

Explain that you're going to watch a video about what kindergarten is like and what children do there. If there are particular things you want your child to notice, give some cues about what to look for and remember.

If your child is currently in a preschool or daycare program, you might ask one or two of these questions before watching **Kindergarten Countdown**.

- How do you think kindergarten will be different from your school?
- What things do you think might be the same as in your classroom?
- What do you wish you knew right now about kindergarten?

After viewing

Use questions like the ones below to begin a discussion. Notice what excites your child or causes concern. Be positive and encouraging and acknowledge the child's feelings.

- What did you see in the video that looked most fun to you?
- What do you hope you will learn in kindergarten?
- How do you think you will get to your new school?
- How can you find the bathroom at school?
- I wonder what helped the children in the video make friends with each other?

You know your child best. He or she may be a willing talker, or more quiet and reserved. Either way, help your child to relax and enjoy the video and let the reassuring information sink in over several viewings.

Offer helpful information

Remember, some children have concerns about starting kindergarten. Hearing your comments about the video can give them information they need to feel more confident. For example, you might say:

- In the video, I saw people helping each other and figuring things out together.
- I saw some children just starting to learn letters and numbers. Teachers help everyone learn and practice.
- I notice sometimes they have snack time in kindergarten.
- When the school day was done, I saw children going home. I bet they had a lot of great things to tell their family.