

TRANSITION 2 K

Early Learning Taskforce of Manatee County

Children with families involved in school are more likely to earn higher grades, graduate from high school, develop self-confidence, and have better classroom and social behavior. Every day is an opportunity to prepare your child for school success, and these efforts should start before kindergarten. The tips below, provided by the Early Learning Taskforce of Manatee County, can help provide a smooth transition to kindergarten process.

PARENT TIPS

SUMMER PRIOR TO PREK

1. **Enroll your child in a VPK program.** Visit www.elc-manatee.org/VPK to register today!
2. **Visit the local Transition to Kindergarten webpage** for more information, parent tips, and community connections at www.elc-manatee.org/Transition-to-Kindergarten.

AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER

1. **Download a FREE VPK Calendar** at www.elc-manatee.org/VPK-Calendar.
2. **Play and read with your child.** Playing encourages bonding. Visit www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/10-things-every-parent-play to learn more.
3. **Build the habit of good attendance when children are healthy enough for school.** Missing 1-2 days of preschool every few weeks can be harder for your child to develop early reading skills and be prepared for kindergarten.
4. **Introduce social/emotional skills** to your little ones. Practice this skill by encouraging your child to express their feelings in a way that can be understood and carefully responded to by their caregiver. Visit www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/help-your-preschooler-gain-self-control to learn more.

OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER

1. **Build your at-home library** by visiting a public library or a community giveaway library. Having access to books in your home creates better academic success. Find locations at www.elc-manatee.org/Book-Nooks.
2. **Use dinnertime to look back on all the fun** you and your child had that day. Ask your child what their favorite parts of their day were, then share yours. By reflecting, you are helping your child build vocabulary and memory skills.
3. **The goal of all VPK programs** is to help develop early literacy and numeracy skills. To gauge progress, children will participate in Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy. This assessment will occur at least 3 times in the VPK year. Be on the lookout for your Star Parent Report so you can fully understand how your child is progressing.

DECEMBER

1. **Make a list of simple chores** for your child to help you with this month (feeding the pets, matching socks, counting forks for the dinner table).
2. **Find your child's school zone** online at www.manateeschools.net/schoollocator.
3. **Learn about school choice** options online at www.manateeschools.net/schoolchoice.

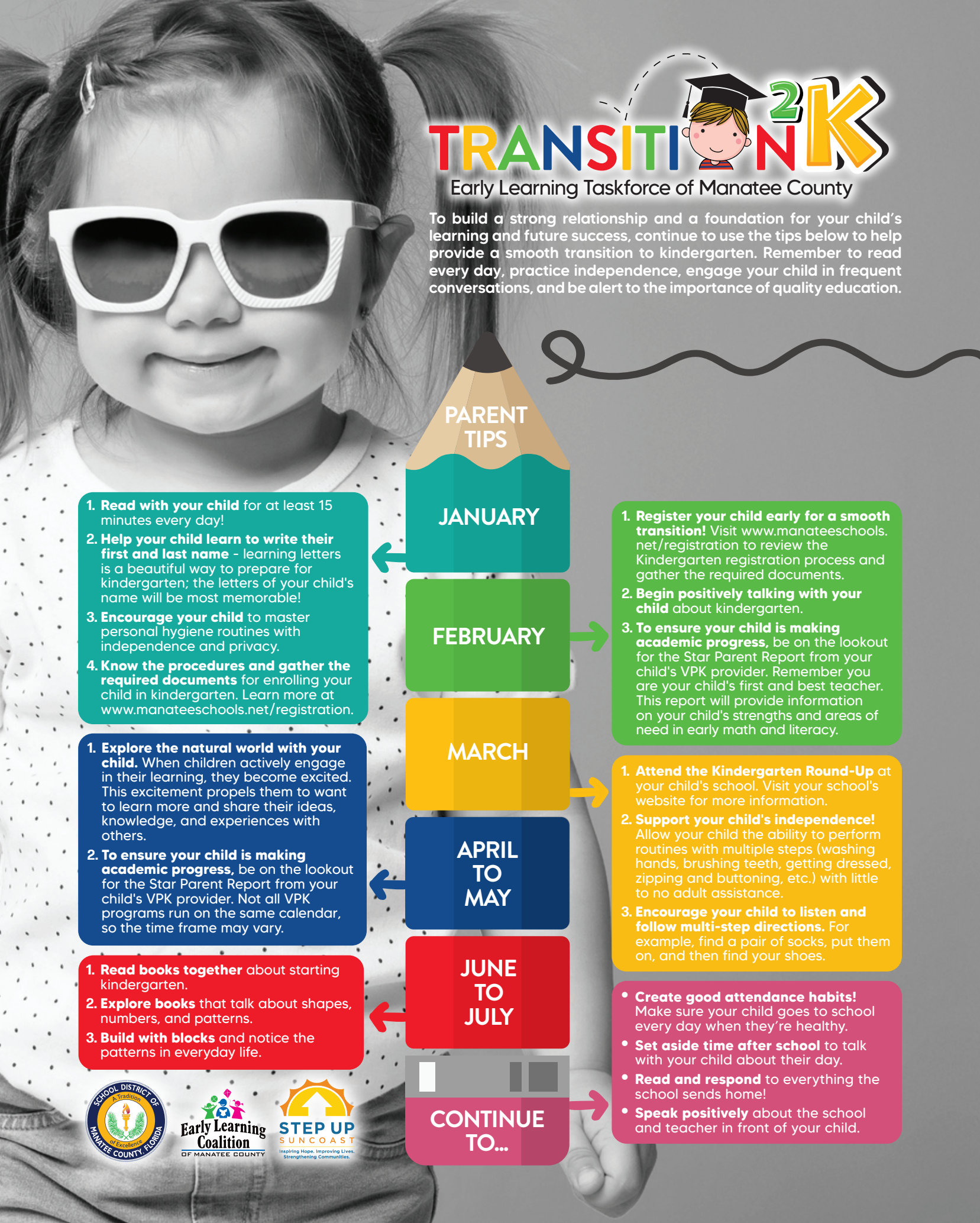
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **Remake Learning Days**, presented by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading with the support of The Patterson Foundation, brings multi-generational hands-on learning experiences that are robust, free, accessible, and open to the public!
- **Soar in 4** also hosts fun events monthly that are offered for free to families! You'll get learning materials and books to take home that help to support literacy skills at home.

School District of Manatee County, Florida — A Tradition of Excellence

Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County

STEP UP SUNCOAST — Inspiring Hope. Improving Lives. Strengthening Communities.



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To build a strong relationship and a foundation for your child's learning and future success, continue to use the tips below to help provide a smooth transition to kindergarten. Remember to read every day, practice independence, engage your child in frequent conversations, and be alert to the importance of quality education.

PARENT TIPS

JANUARY

1. **Read with your child** for at least 15 minutes every day!
2. **Help your child learn to write their first and last name** - learning letters is a beautiful way to prepare for kindergarten; the letters of your child's name will be most memorable!
3. **Encourage your child** to master personal hygiene routines with independence and privacy.
4. **Know the procedures and gather the required documents** for enrolling your child in kindergarten. Learn more at www.manateeschools.net/registration.

FEBRUARY

1. **Register your child early for a smooth transition!** Visit www.manateeschools.net/registration to review the Kindergarten registration process and gather the required documents.
2. **Begin positively talking with your child** about kindergarten.
3. **To ensure your child is making academic progress**, be on the lookout for the Star Parent Report from your child's VPK provider. Remember you are your child's first and best teacher. This report will provide information on your child's strengths and areas of need in early math and literacy.

MARCH

1. **Explore the natural world with your child.** When children actively engage in their learning, they become excited. This excitement propels them to want to learn more and share their ideas, knowledge, and experiences with others.
2. **To ensure your child is making academic progress,** be on the lookout for the Star Parent Report from your child's VPK provider. Not all VPK programs run on the same calendar, so the time frame may vary.

APRIL TO MAY

1. **Attend the Kindergarten Round-Up** at your child's school. Visit your school's website for more information.
2. **Support your child's independence!** Allow your child the ability to perform routines with multiple steps (washing hands, brushing teeth, getting dressed, zipping and buttoning, etc.) with little to no adult assistance.
3. **Encourage your child to listen and follow multi-step directions.** For example, find a pair of socks, put them on, and then find your shoes.

JUNE TO JULY

1. **Read books together** about starting kindergarten.
2. **Explore books** that talk about shapes, numbers, and patterns.
3. **Build with blocks** and notice the patterns in everyday life.

CONTINUE TO...

- **Create good attendance habits!** Make sure your child goes to school every day when they're healthy.
- **Set aside time after school** to talk with your child about their day.
- **Read and respond** to everything the school sends home!
- **Speak positively** about the school and teacher in front of your child.

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