

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD

STARTING SCHOOL

There are many ways that you can make the transition to school go smoothly for your child:

- Talk often about Pre-K/ Kindergarten and reassure your child that it will be an exciting experience.
- Attend the Pre-K/Kindergarten Open House at your child's school in the spring. www.ecsd.net
- Find out when your child can meet his or her teacher and have a tour of the classroom.
- Help your child develop a sense of responsibility. Encourage your child to learn to look after his or her belongings. For example... dressing self, putting clothing away.

Here are some other ideas to consider:

- Read with your child daily and have conversations about the books read.
- Visit the public library.
- Explore the world that your child lives in. Talk about what your child sees. Point out signs, numbers and letters that he or she sees.
- Provide opportunities for your child to interact with other children to promote the development of social skills.
- Encourage your child to know personal information about him or herself (i.e. First and last name, phone number and address).
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes together.
- Celebrate together in the little accomplishments that occur each day.
- Pray together.
- Speak to your child in his or her first language to build a strong foundation for communication.



DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Be involved in the Early Learning experience as much as you can.
- Keep in contact with your child's teacher so you are both informed about your child's progress and development.
- Talk with your child about his or her experiences in school.
- Practice motor skills such as throwing and catching, drawing, cutting and doing puzzles.
- Have many conversations with your child to support oral literacy development. You can build your child's language by:
 - Eating dinner together,
 - Talking about the day,
 - Having conversations in the car,
 - Talking about favorite memories (i.e. highlights from summer holidays, sharing verbal stories from your own childhood),
 - Taking turns making up stories to share.
- Read the newsletters and visit the classrooms even if briefly so you can find extra topics to talk about.
- Be open to conversation with your child and listen for what he or she is feeling.
- Provide as many different experiences as possible for your child. This has a significant impact on how well your child will succeed in school.

