



# Welcome to the Howard County Public School System!

As a parent/guardian of an incoming Pre-K student, you may have questions about what to expect for your child. Pre-K is an exciting time for the young student as well as the family. For many children, this is their first experience outside of the home. All children develop skills at different rates as they grow. Pre-K students will learn so much in their new surroundings, and the development will happen at a fast pace. To help prepare your child for their new environment, you can start working on ways to become a little more independent with activities of daily living like dressing, eating, and toileting.

As a new Pre-K student, your child is in a class with many other peers, so personal skills that support independence are very important! Putting on shoes and zipping up coats, opening lunch containers, and using the bathroom without assistance are a few skills that the majority of students are able to perform independently when they start school. If your child is not already toilet-trained, there are tips to help with the process at the bottom of this memo. When your child starts school, please also make sure there is a complete change of clothes available in the event of an accident and that your child is able to change their own clothes with minimal assistance.

We want to make this transition into the school system as anxiety-free for all students and families as possible. If you need other assistance or have other questions about starting school, please refer to the links provided and/or contact your school for support.



## HCPSS Links

<http://www.hcpss.org/enroll/>

<http://www.hcpss.org/schools/pre-k-programs/>

<http://www.hcpss.org/enroll/kindergarten/>

<http://www.hcpss.org/special-education/early-intervention/>

<http://www.hcpss.org/health/>

## Toilet Training

<http://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/potty-training/basics/step-by-step-guide-to-potty-training/>

<http://www.pampers.com/en-us/toddler/potty-training/article/potty-training-tips-step-by-step-potty-training>

[aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/ago-health-initiatives/practicing-safety/documents/ToiletTraining.pdf](http://aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/ago-health-initiatives/practicing-safety/documents/ToiletTraining.pdf)

**Questions? Please contact HCPSS Office of Early Childhood Programs, 410-313-5693.**

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