



My Child Is Starting School

A guide for the transition from nursery to school



Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Ministerium für Bildung und
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Dear Parents and Guardians,



Your child will soon be starting school. This new phase of life brings many changes. Before the start of your child's first school year, we would like to provide you with some important information that will help ensure the smoothest possible transition from nursery to school.

As you help your child prepare for these major changes, you will most likely have a number of questions. Some things may seem different than you remember from your time at school. One change is that primary school children in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern now begin their school careers in the so-called school entrance phase (Schuleingangsphase). This period of learning comprises the first two school grades. However, your child can remain in this phase for up to three years, depending on their learning progress.

A child who is well prepared for the start of school will have an easier time adjusting and be more likely to maintain a love of learning. There are numerous playful and practical ways for parents to support their child's learning in everyday life. This brochure will provide you with some ideas for how you can help your child prepare for a smooth transition to school.

Choose the ideas that you feel are important for your child. We look forward to welcoming your child to primary school.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simone Oldenburg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Simone Oldenburg

Minister of Education and Daycare Facilities for Children



Transitioning to School

The final year of nursery school

- Parents' meeting at the start of your child's last year of nursery school
- Observation and documentation of your child's development by their teachers, e.g. in the form of a portfolio
- At the end of the year: a meeting with teachers to discuss your child's strengths, along with their special needs and abilities; written consent for the transfer of development documentation to the primary school and after-school care centre (optional)

You can find more information on the transfer of development documentation here:





Registering for school

Preparation:

Take your child to the school's "open house" event.

Where?

All children must be registered with the state primary school in their area (each school's catchment area is determined by the authority maintaining the school). Parents who plan to send their child to a non-state school (Schule in freier Trägerschaft) are nevertheless required to register them in parallel with the state primary school in their area.

When?

All children must be registered by no later than 31 October of the year prior to the start of their compulsory schooling. Information on the required documents, along with the exact deadlines for registration, will be provided by the authority maintaining the school, e.g. posted on the notice board of the nursery school, shared on the respective websites or communicated through the press.





School entry health checks

Who?

The head of the responsible state primary school initiates school entry health checks for all registered pupils. An appointment is normally sent to parents in writing by the local health authority.

What?

The aim of the health check is to determine whether your child's development is proceeding in line with normal expectations and whether they are ready to attend school. A postponement of the start of school is possible on serious health grounds. A request for postponement can be submitted by the parent(s) or guardian(s).



Starting school

The enrolment ceremony

Every school can decide whether their enrolment ceremony for new pupils will take place prior to or at the end of the first week of classes. This event always takes place on a day when parents and other relatives can attend.

The first school week

The first week of school can be organised as a “welcome week” for all new pupils under the motto “getting to know each other and our school”. This approach gives children an opportunity to get settled in and take the time they need to become familiar with their new school and daily routines.

Under this link, you can find advice and information on enrolment:



The school entrance phase



- The so-called school entrance phase (Schuleingangsphase) consists of grades 1 and 2.
- Pupils can take one, two or three school years to complete these grades.
- During the school entrance phase, no marks are given for pupil assessment. Instead, assessment takes the form of a report describing in detail the pupil's progress in the various fields of learning. The first marks are usually given in grade 3.
- At the end of the school entrance phase, all pupils advance to grade 3.

You can find more information on the transition process here:







How to Best Support Your Child

Self-confidence and independence

enable your child to

- ✓ deal with new situations;
- ✓ independently complete routine tasks at school.



You can best support your child:

- by allowing them to do things by themselves, even if it takes longer, e. g. getting dressed and undressed, going to the bathroom
- by actively involving them in your family's everyday life, e.g. entrusting them with small tasks
- by letting them talk about their own experiences and ideas, and asking follow-up questions (“What was the best thing that happened to you today?” / “What did you learn today?”)

The development of effective group skills

enables your child to

- ✓ identify and express their own feelings and those of others;
- ✓ know and understand the rules;
- ✓ be aware of other people's needs and desires



You can best support your child:

- by describing and explaining feelings, e.g. anticipation, fear, happiness, sadness
- by recognising their feelings and taking them seriously
- by negotiating, implementing and following (game) rules
- by promoting social contacts, e.g. making it possible for them to meet regularly with other children





The development of language and writing skills

enables your child to

- ✓ express their own needs, opinions and desires;
- ✓ understand and describe short texts;
- ✓ use various writing implements.



You can best support your child:

- by establishing a routine for reading a variety of stories and poems out loud and discussing details from the stories
- by asking them to retell short stories
- by singing songs and reciting rhymes while clapping or moving to the rhythm
- by coming up with riddles and puzzles together
- by helping them recognise their own written name
- through games and activities that promote manual dexterity, e. g. painting, stringing beads, cutting things, kneading dough





A good understanding of maths

enables your child to

- ✓ describe and compare quantities;
- ✓ count;
- ✓ make sense of the world around them.



You can best support your child:

- by drawing attention to numbers in their surroundings, e.g. house and telephone numbers, age and price labels
- by reciting counting rhymes and by playing card, dice and counting games, e.g. games like “Elfer raus”, number dominoes
- by counting and categorising everyday objects, e.g. when setting the table, shopping
- by describing your surroundings when taking a walk (up, down, in front, behind) or finding the highest tree, the smallest flower etc.

An understanding of technology and natural sciences

enables your child to

- ✓ use simple tools and devices;
- ✓ learn about natural phenomena and seasons;
- ✓ learn about plants and animals.



You can best support your child:

- by providing opportunities for them to make things from various materials, e.g. wood or natural materials that you have collected
- by letting them discover, build and try things, e.g. observing changes in nature throughout the year, building a playhouse from a large box
- by helping them observe phenomena in nature using different senses, e. g. changes in the weather, gravity, heat and cold
- by exploring nature together, e.g. using a magnifying glass to look at plants or animals





Media and digital literacy skills

enables your child to

- ✓ use digital media wisely in everyday life;
- ✓ use media in a healthy and age-appropriate manner;
- ✓ differentiate between the virtual world and reality.



You can best support your child:

- by ensuring that they use media consciously, with adult supervision and only at certain times
- by talking about experiences with media (“What did you see?”/ “What did you hear?”/ “What did you understand?”)
- by using a simple writing program in order to gain experience with a mouse, keyboard and printer, as well as with letters and numbers
- by using media to search for information about an interesting topic together

An understanding of music and art



enables your child to

- ✓ identify and express how various pieces of music and art make them feel;
- ✓ enjoy moving to music;
- ✓ use a variety of painting and drawing materials or musical instruments in a creative manner.



You can best support your child:

- through games that involve singing, talking and movement
- by enabling them to try out (musical) instruments and make sounds using instruments or everyday objects
- by dancing to music
- by giving them opportunities to use pencils, paintbrushes, scissors and glue
- by helping them use their creativity to make handicrafts, e.g. making things from collected natural materials, play dough, papier mâché or clay





Body awareness and exercise

enables your child to

- ✓ identify and describe their own feelings and physical boundaries, e.g. in contact with others (people they know and don't know);
- ✓ develop a sense of what is good for them;
- ✓ enjoy running, jumping, playing catch, rolling around and other activities



You can best support your child:

- by showing them how to express their personal boundaries and accept the personal boundaries of others, e.g. by saying “NO” to unwanted touching and accepting the limits set by others
- by taking time for mindfulness breaks, e.g. focusing on their breathing and bodily sensations
- by helping them get as much physical exercise as possible in their daily routines, e.g. walking up steps, riding a bicycle, taking walks, playing outdoors, dancing to music etc.
- by giving them chances to learn about their own physical abilities, e.g. through running races, climbing, balancing and swinging, jumping on one leg, throwing and catching a ball



Environmental and sustainability education

enables your child to

- ✓ appreciate nature and the environment;
- ✓ learn about animals, plants and the natural world, e.g. seasonal changes.



You can best support your child:

- by spending time with them in nature and encouraging them to experience the natural world with all of their senses, e.g. by walking barefoot in the grass
- by teaching them about the needs of plants and animals, e.g. by hanging up an insect hotel or nesting box or by planting flowers
- by letting them help you use and take care of plants and design garden spaces

The development of values

enables your child to



- ✓ recognise, respect and appreciate the differences and similarities between various cultures, languages and appearances;
- ✓ ask questions and experience the world as a place of great diversity.



You can best support your child:

- by modelling an open and curious attitude towards other people, e.g. at nursery school
- by providing opportunities for them to experience diversity, e.g. at neighbourhood parties or in sports clubs
- by understanding, accepting and respecting the fact that other people may think and feel differently



