

FAQs for Entrance To Kindergarten:

Q: “If my child has a health issue i.e. food/insect allergies, asthma, seizure disorder, diabetes, or any other chronic medical condition, when should I discuss this with the school nurse?”

A: You should call your child’s school nurse to schedule a private appointment by the end of the current school year in order to develop a plan for your child prior to the start of school

Q: “If my child takes medication at home, but will not need medication at school, should I still notify the nurse?”

A: Absolutely! It is very important for us to know about any medications that your child is taking so that we can monitor for side effects.

Q: "If my child needs to take medication at school, what do I need to do?"

A: Please try and schedule medications so that they can be administered at home if at all possible. If your child requires medication during the school day, we are happy to administer medication to your child at school according to our medication policy which is: No student is allowed to transport medication to/from school as all medication needs to be transported by an adult; this includes any over the counter medications. Also, all medication needs to have a pharmacy label containing your child's name, name of the medication, dose, time of the dose and the physician's name. We will need a completed Parental Authorization Form filled out by you, as well as a Physician's Authorization Form completed by your child’s healthcare provider. Both forms can be found on this website under “Health Forms and Policies” in the Health Forms Folder.

Q: “Why do we need to fill out the Nurse Emergency Card each year when it seems like we have a lot of other paperwork that looks similar?”

A: The Emergency Card is extremely important for the nurses, as the form contains vital information in case we need to reach you if your child is ill, has an emergency, and/or is injured. This form should be returned to school the day after you receive it (preferably day 2 of school). Please notify the nurse if there are any changes such as a new medical condition, medication changes, and there is also a section that requires your initials if you want your child to receive certain medications if indicated during the day.

Q: “When should I keep my child home from school?”

A: Please refer to the Needham Public Schools Website for when you should keep your child

home; this information is located on the Health Services page. Please call your school nurse with any questions.

Q:"What else can I do to make my child have a successful day at school?"

A: Students should start their day with a healthy breakfast each morning, and students in kindergarten should ideally receive 10-13 hours each night. Please send your student with a healthy snack each day along with a water bottle. In addition, please make sure that your student has a seasonal appropriate change of clothing at school; there are many reasons why students need a clean set of clothing, and having students prepared will minimize their time out of the classroom and will help them to be more comfortable

Q:"What else should my child know before coming to Kindergarten?"

A: In order to keep our community safe and healthy, please reinforce the following to your student:

- HANDWASHING!!! Students should practice their handwashing techniques as it is the best defense against illness
- Not to share food/beverages with peers as we have numerous children who have food allergies.
- Practice independent self-care skills after using the bathroom
- Practice independent skills when using clothing fasteners, zippers, etc.

Q: "What do I do if my child gets lice?"

A: If your child has head lice, please notify the school nurse. Please check your child's head every week as lice can spread in school and camp settings. Head lice are a nuisance, not a cause for alarm, and they spread by crawling, not by jumping or flying and cannot be transported by family pets. We appreciate your vigilance!!

Elementary School Nurses:

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Don't hesitate to contact your child's school nurse with any questions or concerns and welcome to Needham Public Schools!

