



It's normal to be nervous as you send your little one out into the world. But remember: You are giving your child a gift by teaching independence.

Starting school is an exciting time, but drop-off is hectic and can be a bit teary. Please don't tell your child, "I'll miss you." You'll only make him feel wobblier. Instead, say, "I'm going to do some mommy / daddy work while you stay here and play." We'll call if you're needed – really, we will.

One of our main jobs as preschool teachers is to prepare your children for kindergarten. We might intervene if we think you're doing too much – for instance, he should know how to take off his coat and hang it up. If you don't rush in to help, you'll be surprised at how much he can do by himself.

Keep in mind that preschool is about learning through play. Many times, parents want to focus on getting kids to read. But doing puzzles, recognizing shapes, and scribbling are all important steps on the ladder to reading and elementary school success. If any of these are missed, your child will certainly fall. We don't expect a baby to walk before he learns to sit up, and then crawl. So we shouldn't push kids to read before their eyes, ears, fine motor skills, and minds are ready.

During the year, please remember these basic courtesies:

- Feed your child breakfast / lunch. A hungry child is unable to focus.
- Read your handbook (can be found at [happyvalleyyps.com](http://happyvalleyyps.com)) You'll find it answers many of your questions.
- Don't send your child to school if he's not feeling well.
- Finally, please trust us. We have your child's best interests in mind when we plan each day. We know that we are teaching important life skills, and although it's unlikely your children will remember us, we will always remember them. Each child makes a lasting impression and stays forever in our hearts.

The Happy Valley Staff