

Dream Big!

DSG believes your child has unlimited potential and a very bright future! One of our goals is to help you navigate the educational maze and provide support along the journey. Many DSG parents express concerns and anxiety over sending their child with Down syndrome off to kindergarten.

The *Smart Start* program was developed in response to parents requests for support at this critical transition time. If you have asked yourself any of the following questions then *Smart Start* is for you:

- Will my child be safe?
- Will my child be included?
- Will my child have a paraprofessional?
- Will my child have friends?
- Will my child succeed?



Don't miss this opportunity to help your child have a *Smart Start*!

Schedule

All sessions will be held at the DSG Center. Dinner and childcare will be provided to those who register in advance for sessions. Bring the kids in their PJ's so they are ready for bed when you get home after the session! **Complete the enclosed registration form and return it to:**

Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City
10200 West 75th Street, Suite 281
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204
Questions? 913-384-4848

Session 1: Student Readiness

Tuesday, August 31st
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Session 2: Parent/School Relations

Tuesday, December 7th
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Session 3: Placements & IEP's

Tuesday, March 8th
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Session 4: Fostering Friendships

Tuesday, June 7th
6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Smart Start



*Send your child
with Down syndrome
off to kindergarten
confidently.*



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www.kcdsg.org

the **big picture:** building strong foundations for educational success

One of the best gifts you can give your child is a great foundation before going off to kindergarten. DSG invites you to attend the **Smart Start** sessions which will help you better understand what successful students with Down syndrome have in common.

Your attendance will help you send your child with Down syndrome off to the first day of kindergarten with excitement instead of trepidation. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, learn about local resources, and to meet other parents whose children are also preparing to enter kindergarten.



SMART START SESSIONS

Session 1: Student Readiness

Tuesday, August 31st 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

This session will cover the following topics:

- Potty training
- High expectations
- Insistence on compliance
- Following rules and directions
- Jobs around the house
- Handling schedule changes



Session 2: Parent/School Relations

Tuesday, December 7th 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

This session will cover the following topics:

- Communicating effectively
- Common mistakes
- Addressing concerns
- What's a paraprofessional?
- What your teachers need to know



Session 3: Placements & IEP's

Tuesday, March 8th 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

This session will cover the following topics:

- State assessments
- IQ Testing
- Inclusion, mainstreaming and self-contained classrooms
- Individual Education Plans
- Creating IEP Goals

Session 4: Fostering Friendships

Tuesday, June 7th 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

This session will cover the following topics:

- Social skills for success
- Creating social opportunities
- Successful play dates
- Extra-curricular activities
- Community activities
- Peer presentations

Parents who complete all four sessions will receive a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card to purchase school supplies!