

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. Breakfast or dinner and childcare will be provided to those who register in advance for sessions. **Please complete the registration form attached 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, September 8th 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Saturday, September 12th 8:30 AM-10:30 AM

Session 2: Parent/School Relations

Tuesday, December 15th 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Saturday, December 19th 8:30 AM-10:30 AM

Session 3: Placements & IEP's

Tuesday, March 2nd 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Saturday, March 6th 8:30 AM-10:30 AM

Session 4: Fostering Friendships

Tuesday, June 1st 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Saturday, June 5th 8:30 AM-10:30 AM

Smart Start



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



10200 West 75th Street
Suite 281
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204
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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

September 8th 6:30-8:30 pm OR September 12th 8:30-10:30 am

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

December 15th 6:30-8:30 pm OR December 19th 8:30-10:30 am

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

March 2nd 6:30-8:30 pm OR March 6th 8:30-10:30 am

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

June 1st 6:30-8:30 pm OR June 5th 8:30-10:30 am

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!