



Kindergarten Registration

The kindergarten registration process is ongoing now through March 28. You should have received a registration packet in the mail. There are three ways to register your child:

- **Contact-Free:** Please place the registration packet and required documentation into the secure, designated drop box located at 2000 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, 14467 (Carlton O. Webster/Webster Learning Center - District Registrar entrance - look for the **yellow kindergarten registration** sign).
- **Electronic:** [Please click here to read the step-by-step instructions](#) in order to complete registration electronically. You will need access to a scanner to send registration forms and required documentation via email.
- **In Person:** If you would like to register in-person, please contact the district registrar at (585) 359-7957 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are not accepted. Please be sure to bring all completed forms and required documentation with you.

Please contact the district registrar's office at 359-7957 or registrar@rhnet.org to request a kindergarten registration packet be mailed to you, if you haven't received one.

Take a few minutes to check out Betsy Marshall's [kindergarten](#) slideshow. It is filled with pertinent information for the parents of incoming kindergartners.

Family Center Events



Family Arts and Crafts Night - Mark your calendars! Family Arts and Crafts Night will be 6:30 p.m., Monday, February 10. Please see the attached flyer for event details and be sure to register when the time comes!

Parent Discussion Group

This month, parent educator Betsy Marshall will host a discussion on "**Speech and Language Development in Young Children**." We welcome and encourage interested UPK parents to attend any session that fits their schedule. See the attached flyer for details and the calendar below for session dates and times!

Speech and Language Development

UPK Site	Date	Times
Augustin	Monday, February 24	9-10 a.m.
Care-a-lot	Tuesday, February 11	8-9 a.m.
Expressive Beginnings	Monday, February 10	8:30-9:30 a.m.
Good Shepherd	Thursday, February 6	9:30-10:30 a.m. or 2-3 p.m.
Henrietta Recreation Center	Monday, February 10	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Richard M. Guon Child Care Center at MCC	Monday, February 3	9-10 a.m.
Pride and Joy	Tuesday, February 4	8:30-9:30 a.m.
Rush Nursery School	Tuesday, February 11	9-10 a.m.

Tips for Parents

Please read this month's "Family Focus" article on the importance of talking with your children. Research has shown the importance of talking **with** (not just **to**) your children. High quality conversations and vocabulary set the stage for strong literacy skills in school, regardless of the language that is spoken. The article provides parents with many ideas for incorporating comprehensive oral language at home.

Hearing Screenings

Hearing screenings will be provided to all UPK students who did not have one documented on their physical form. The screenings are quick and noninvasive and will take place at school before the end of the year. If you have any questions about the hearing screenings, feel free to call the UPK office at 359-7913.

Calendar

There will be **no UPK** at any site during the week of February 17-21 for the February Recess. Enjoy the week off!

Remember, if your child will be absent on a scheduled school day, **notify** your school as to when and why they will be out. If they are attending school, please have them there **on time**. Thank you!



R-H UPK February Family Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						Joke of the month: What did one hedgehog say to the other after they hugged? Ouch!!
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Happy Groundhog Day! (See tomorrow's activity!)	Talk with your child about shadows. Try making some in a dark room with a flashlight.	Have your child help sort laundry (matching clean socks and distributing them to each family member is a great task for preschoolers.)	Can your child identify this shape?  Can they find some in the house?	Write your child's name on a piece of paper. Have them tell you all of the letters. Cut the letters up and rearrange them. Have your child put them in the correct order.	Ask your child to clap the syllables they hear in the words: Heart (1) Winter (2) Snowflake (2) February (4)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Read a favorite story to your child. Have them retell it in their own words. 	Try pattern counting to 10. (Clap, jump, clap, jump, etc.)	Let's move! Have your child mimic the ways different animals move Ex: hop like a bunny, slither like a snake, walk like a crab	Have your child think of one nice thing to do for another. Discuss why this is important.	Happy Valentine's Day! Help your child make a valentine card for someone they love. 	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Presidents' Day 	February Recess Schools Closed		Read, play, and enjoy family time this week!		
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
	To strengthen fine motor skills, let your child play with Legos, playdough, or finger paint.	Cook or bake something with your child. Discuss the ingredients and the steps you will need to take.	Read a bedtime story. Make this a regular part of your child's bedtime routine.	Help your child think of words that begin with the same sound as Love (ex: lip, lap, light)	Brainstorm activities to do in the snow. If there's snow over the weekend, try some out! 	

Rush Henrietta Universal Pre-K

Parenting Education Programs



Speech & Language Development

- Learn about language development and communication in children ages birth - five.
- What are some language roadblocks?
- How can you support your child's language development?
- What do you do if you have concerns about speech and language development in your child?

UPK Site	Date	Times
Richard M. Guon Child Care Center at MCC	Monday, February 3	9-10 a.m.
Pride & Joy	Tuesday, February 4	8:30-9:30 a.m.
Good Shepherd	Thursday, February 6	9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 2-3 p.m.
Expressive Beginnings	Monday, February 10	8:30-9:30 am
Henrietta Recreation Center	Monday, February 10	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Care-a-lot	Tuesday, February 11	8-9 a.m.
Rush Nursery School	Tuesday, February 11	2-3 p.m.
Augustin	Monday, February 24	9-10 a.m.

All are welcome! Please join us (any of the sites/times that work for your schedule). This is a free program for adults.

Family Arts & Crafts Night

Monday, February 10, 2025 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Good Shepherd Building - 3288 East Henrietta Rd.
The event will be held in the gym.

~ For Parents and Children in Even Start and UPK ~



Due to the popularity of this program, it will be limited to 20 children. Registration is required and will begin on Monday, February 3.

**NO REGISTRATION WILL BE
ACCEPTED BEFORE FEBRUARY 3.**

Please email Patty Sammon at: psammon@rhnet.org and include the following information:

- Your family name
- Number of children and their ages
- Number of adults
- The best phone number to reach you

Family Focus

Building a Foundation for School Success

Getting Ready for School

Talking with Your Child Every Day

Good communication skills are important for your child to be able to express what she or he needs, wants, thinks and feels. Talking with your child in any language helps your child develop good speaking, listening, and early literacy skills. It also strengthens your parent-child relationship.

Why is this important for school readiness?

Research shows that talking with (not just to) your child creates measurable changes in the brain and sets the stage for strong literacy skills in school. These interactions are even more important than the number of words your child hears.

Talking with your child can help your child learn to listen to others and take turns in conversations

A language rich environment at home is important for your child's language development. A language rich environment is one where family members frequently talk, read or sing with the child in English and/or a family's home language.

The more words children hear and know helps them understand conversations and understand books. By third grade, children who know more words and have bigger vocabularies tend to become stronger readers.

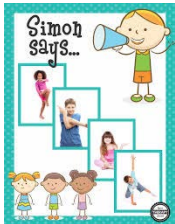
"Private speech" is the kind of talking children (and adults) do when they talk to themselves. Private speech is an important part of preschoolers' language development. It helps them practice unfamiliar kinds of language, reinforces ideas they are trying to remember, and helps them with problem-solving and self-control.

What can families do to help?

- ❖ Set aside time to converse with your child about something that interests him or her. Sit with your child and make eye contact.
- ❖ When conversing with your child, pause after speaking to give your child enough time to continue the conversation. If your family is multilingual, use any language to speak with your child.
- ❖ Talk with your child during routines: while he or she is getting dressed, getting ready for bed, and while in the bath tub.
- ❖ Use new and interesting words with your child. For example, when you are talking about something that's "big", substitute other words for big such as "huge" or "gigantic".
- ❖ Be an active listener when your child speaks with you. Repeat back what your child said to let him or her know you were listening.
- ❖ Talk with your child about his or her feelings, what makes your child mad, sad, frustrated, or angry.
- ❖ Ask your child questions to get him or her talking. Questions like: "What are you doing? Who did you play with at school?" Remember to give your child enough time to respond to what you are asking.
- ❖ Narrate everyday chores as you do them. For example, "I need to separate the dark and light colors before washing them."
- ❖ Take advantage of daily activities to foster conversations such as going to the grocery store to discuss what you will buy, how many, and what you're going to make. Discuss size, shape and weight of items.

Activities to do with your preschooler:

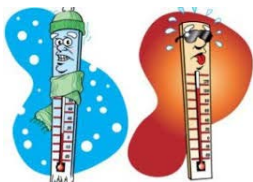
- ❖ Help develop your child's listening-comprehension skills: **Play "Simon Says" or "Mother, May I"**



Playing classical games like **Mother, May I?** or **Simon Says** is a fun way to help develop your child's listening-comprehension skills. You probably played these when you were a child. Give simple commands such as, "Stand on one foot," "Touch your nose," or "Clap your hands". Take turns being the leader.



- ❖ Increase your child's vocabulary: **Play the "Hot and Cold Game"**



Choose one of your child's favorite toys and hide it while he or she is in another room. Ask your child to come and try to find the toy. When your child goes in the wrong direction, cross your arms, shiver, and say, "Brr, you're getting cold." When he or she goes in the right direction, fan your face and say, "You're getting warmer." Continue until your child finds the toy. Repeat, or try reversing the roles and having your child hide a toy for you to find.



- ❖ Encourage storytelling to expand language and sequential thinking: **Play "Family Story Time"**



One person starts by making up a story and the next person continues the story. For example, "Once upon a time there was a sad dragon." Let your child chime in whenever he or she wants to continue the story. Help your child think of something to add to the story by asking questions such as, "Why was the dragon sad? Where did the dragon live?".



- ❖ Record your child telling a story or singing: **A Star is Born!**

Use your smart phone to record your child telling a story or singing a song, and then play it back to your child. Most children enjoy being on camera, so recording your child telling a story or singing a song will motivate her or him to use language. Grandparents will love watching the recording too!



- ❖ **Play "What Rhymes With..."**



Say a word and ask your child to respond with a word that rhymes. For example, say "bat" and the child responds with "cat" or "fat". Let your child start the game by saying a word, and then you respond with a rhyming word. Made-up words are okay as long as they rhyme. (Dr. Seuss used made-up rhyming words all the time!) This is a good game to play when waiting at the doctor's office or riding in a car.



- ❖ Help your child use language to explain: **Do It Like This**

Encourage your child to give directions that you follow. For example, ask for him or her to explain how to build a garage out of blocks, make an ice cream cone, or throw a ball. Follow the directions exactly as given!



Resources used for this tip sheet:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2008). Activities to Encourage Speech and Language Development

Center for Early Literacy Learning (2012-2016). Practice Guides to Use with Parents: Talking and Listening

Walsh, B. (2018) The Brain-Changing Power of Conversation. Center for the Developing Child, Harvard University

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/02/brain-changing-power-conversation>

