**March Madness, down to the Wire, End of School Year, and Summer Checklist**

If you have a student in kindergarten or a high school senior, many things come into play at the end of the school year.

For most of us, the end of the school year is here before we know it.

A best practice might be to start looking ahead a month or two before Spring break so that you are not panicking at the 11th hour.

**Kindergarten Round Up:**

A child must be at least 5 years old to enter kindergarten or 6 years old to enter first grade. The minimum age in which a child must be enrolled in and attend school is age 6. A family can choose to wait until a child turns 6 before enrolling the child in kindergarten.

Check with your local school district for exact dates for kindergarten registration. Online registration might be possible depending on your district’s policy.

**Documents that you might need for registration:**

* **The child’s birth certificate**
* **The child’s immunization record**
* **Parent/guardian photo ID**
* **Custody documentation (if applicable)**
* **Proof Residency: Utility Bill, Rental Agreement.**

**Contact your school district or check their website to confirm the requirements**

**Summer programming:** there are multiple sources of programming including many summer camps for students however camps start to fill up in February and March so checking on a summer camp in April or May might become frustrating when camps are saying that they're full or at capacity. If you have a child with a disability that adds another layer of difficulty when it comes to finding the appropriate summer activity for your child. Consider checking with your school district to find out if they have any free or low-cost programs during the summer often school districts partner with local community organizations to provide summer activities at no cost such as the local zoo and aquarium, COSI, Art museums, and much more. Local agencies circulate a list of free or low-cost activities in the area your local children’s hospital may also have information on summer safety and programming.

# <http://bit.ly/SST11FamilyResources>

**Will my child need Summer School?** **Summer School fees, can I afford it**

Explore school-based Summer Enrichment programs.

Inquire if the school has an income-based waiver or scholarship program.

Check with your local county Board of Developmental Disabilities for family support funding.

**It’s May and my child has been suspended for the rest of the school year**: Immediately inquire about the school district’s appeal process if your child has an IEP or 504 Plan the child’s disability could have had an impact on the incident. If you need support, contact someone at the **Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities** for support [**OCECD Information Specialist Map**](https://filecabinet5.eschoolview.com/4C58C8C4-277C-4CB6-93F3-AAEAB8BF82C9/279c6da9-96d0-4a69-8d25-838bbc6d413d.pdf)

Phone: (844) 382-5452   
Fax: (740) 383-6421

**Will my child have enough credit to graduate?** Keep in close contact with your child’s IEP team and Guidance Counselor. Explore opportunities for credit recovery alternate pathway programs.

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements>

**Drivers Education, my high school student needs to get his/ her driver’s license**: Check the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to start the process to obtain a temporary permit, you might consider Drivers Education during the Summer.

Inquire about opportunities for free defensive drivers training in your area:

https://www.mariatiberifoundation.org/simulator-schools2.html

**Summer employment for teens**: Check with your school district to find Summer employment opportunities. Check with the local Zoo, Recreation and Parks Department, Grocery Stores, etc. Ohio Means Jobs is a great resource for employment. If your child has IEP, there should be a Transition Plan in place. The transition section might include opportunities for work experience and or training.

**Guardianship:** When your child turns 18, he or she will be seen as an adult and will be afforded the opportunity to take control of his or her affairs in educational and medical environments. It is very important that decisions are made to support them if needed. https://probate.franklincountyohio.gov/departments/guardianship

**Therapies during the Summer**: Your district might offer an hour or more per week of Speech and or other therapies.

Check with your local agencies such as Easter Seals

**End of School Year Services for students on IEPs**: if your district has been tracking data to determine if your child is eligible for ESY or End of School Year services it's time to check in with them to determine the outcome of the data that was collected. Be sure that there is a clear understanding of ESY Services vs Summer School or Summer Camp provided by the school district.

**I work full-time, who will care for my children during the Summer**: if at all possible, check to see if you might be able to switch to a work-from-home option. If you have a trusted older teen neighbor or a relative, ask if they are looking for a summer job; you also might consider bartering or trading off childcare with a friend or family member who's in the same situation as you are.

**Planning to provide meals and snacks during the Summer**:

There are multiple Free Summer Meals provided by schools and recreation centers during the summer.

Take full advantage of the local free fresh produce markets provided by Food Banks and food pantries in your area.

Use this link and your zip code to find free fresh produce in your area: <https://freshtrak.com/>

**Car Seat Safety**

1. **Find a Car Seat Expert.**Safe Kids hosts car seat inspection events across the country where certified car seat technicians can teach you to install and use your car seat properly. In some communities, they also serve in fixed locations called inspection stations during specific days and times. You may find an inspection station at a GM dealership, a hospital, or even a firehouse. [Find a Safe Kids car seat checkup event near you](https://www.safekids.org/events).

**Water safety**

Whether it’s a trip to the beach or a dip in the community or backyard pool, you can ensure that swimming is as safe as it is fun by following a few basic safety tips. **Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death among children ages 1-4.**

**https://www.safekids.org/tip/swimming-safety-tips-pdf**

**Bike Safety**

Every year bike crashes kill more than 200 children and send another 350,000 under the age of 15 to hospital emergency rooms. The single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death related to bicycle crashes is a helmet. Bike helmets can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85%.

https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/family-resources-education/health-wellness-and-safety-resources/helping-hands/bike-helmet-safety

**Emergency Plan:**

**Emergency contact numbers\***

**\*These would include doctors, dentists, Poison Control, and family members' work and cell phone numbers. This list should also contain a note about any severe allergies that family members have. (You should have an additional copy of your emergency contacts in your**[**household notebook**](https://www.household-management-101.com/household-notebook.html)**.)**

[**American Red Cross First Aid and Safety Handbook**](https://amzn.to/2RsLTDH)**, or the**[**American Medical Association Handbook of First Aid and Emergency Care**](https://amzn.to/2Y61eMW)**.**

**Supplies For Minor Scrapes and Cuts\***

* **Adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)**
* **Adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch)**
* **Sterile gauze (both rolls and pads)**
* **Antibiotic ointment**
* **Antiseptic wipes/spray**
* **Instant cold compresses (I also like to have some reusable cold compresses in the freezer at all times)**

**https://www.ready.gov/home-fire-escape-plan**

**Creating and practicing a home fire escape plan is simple. Follow the steps below to make sure everyone in your home is prepared and knows what to do in case of a home fire.**

* **Make a written**[**home fire escape plan**](http://makesafehappen.com/articles/family-fire-escape-planning)**and practice getting out in under 2 minutes.**
* **Make sure you have**[**smoke alarms**](https://makesafehappen.com/articles/home-smoke-alarms)**on every level of your home and in each bedroom. Test them twice a year.**
* **Download the**[**Make Safe Happen app**](http://makesafehappen.com/get-the-app)**for a fire drill timer to practice your escape plan.**
* **Learn the best practices for**[**home fire safety**](http://www.ready.gov/home-fires)**and fire safety**[**with children**](https://makesafehappen.com/articles/children-and-fire-safety)**.**

**Poison Control**

[**https://www.poison.org/**](https://www.poison.org/)

**1800-222-1222**

**Doctor Appointments and Vaccines:** Summer is a great time to make sure that your child is up to date on his or her vaccines, dental appointments, and well visits.

**Resource Sites:**

[**https://www.household-management-101.com/first-aid-kit-checklist.html**](https://www.household-management-101.com/first-aid-kit-checklist.html)

[**https://www.safekids.org/tip/car-seat-tips**](https://www.safekids.org/tip/car-seat-tips)

[**https://www.poison.org/**](https://www.poison.org/)

[**https://www.safekids.org/tip/swimming-safety-tips-pdf**](https://www.safekids.org/tip/swimming-safety-tips-pdf)

[**https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/family-resources-education/health-wellness-and-safety-resources/helping-hands/bike-helmet-safety**](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/family-resources-education/health-wellness-and-safety-resources/helping-hands/bike-helmet-safety)

[**https://www.mariatiberifoundation.org/simulator-schools2.html**](https://www.mariatiberifoundation.org/simulator-schools2.html)

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