

# The Summer Before School Starts: Ideas For Connecting With Other New Families

## Description

Now that you've selected the private elementary school for your child (or they selected you), you're probably shifting into the "what's next" mode. Summer is a great time to meet new families before school begins. Most private schools some offer some or all of the following events to help families get acquainted before school starts:

**Host Family meet and greet.** Many schools ask a current family to host a new family for a lunch or other get together. You may be invited to join your "host family" for an event. This family has been asked by the school to host several new families who have kids who will be in the same class and are most likely the same gender. Note: we've heard all kinds of "host family" stories. Most of the families are really nice and welcoming. Our host family at The Willows organized a brunch at her house with homemade cinnamon rolls. A few host families never even bother to call the new family. Sometimes, they will call, but are "too busy" to get together. Others can be arrogant and aloof and unwelcoming. If anything like this happens to you, let the school know. The reason this happens is because new parents are too intimidated to tell the school so it continues year after year.

**Picnics.** Many schools have summer picnics for the entire school, including new families.

**Social events.** You may be invited to a variety of social events to welcome you to the school. Parties and other events are the school's way of welcoming its new families.

**Visit the classroom.** Your new school may invite you and your child to visit the classroom and meet the teachers before school starts.

**Playdates.** Schools will send out a roster before the start of school. It's a great idea to have a few playdates with other families before school starts. It will help your child recognize a friendly face the first day of school and it's nice for you to meet other parents, especially if you don't already know any incoming families. However, don't feel insulted if some parents don't respond. They may be out of town or have older siblings already at the school so they may not feel like a playdate is needed for their child.

**Host your own event.** Sometimes new families will host a pool party or other event for incoming families. If you do this, just make sure to invite everyone in your child's class!

**Plan your own event.** Schedule a moms only get together like a hike or a lunch date. Dads can do the same thing. Again, just remember to invite all the moms or dads in your child's class! And don't be upset if some of the parents don't respond.

We discuss what to expect your during your child's first year at private elementary school in [Beyond The Brochure](#) if you want to know more about this topic.

### Category

1. Beyond The Brochure

### Tags

1. meet other families at your school
2. private school culture

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