



Full-Day Kindergarten

Frequently Asked Questions

Which schools will be offering Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK)?

School boards throughout the province are implementing Full-Day Kindergarten in phases, starting in September 2010 with full implementation in all schools scheduled for September 2014. In Phase Four (2013-2014) of implementation, approximately 75% of schools in the province will have FDK. Lists of TDSB schools by their implementation year are posted on the TDSB public website under Full-Day Kindergarten at www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Who teaches Full-Day Kindergarten?

Certified Teachers and registered Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) or early learning classroom support work in partnership to help children learn during the regular school day.

Are there Full-Day Kindergarten French Immersion programs in the TDSB?

Yes, some schools offering French Immersion have Full-Day Kindergarten Programs. Please see list of schools offering French Immersion in FDK at www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

What do children learn in Full-Day Kindergarten?

Full-Day Kindergarten programs are guided by the Ministry of Education's Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program (draft version). A copy can be found on the Ministry website at: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten.html

Are Kindergarten Special Education Programs held all day as well?

Yes, Special Education students have the same opportunity to attend all day.

How does Full-Day Kindergarten differ from a Half-Day Kindergarten?

Both programs provide common outcomes of learning for all children. By the end of Senior Kindergarten, children in Full-Day Kindergarten and Half-Day Kindergarten programs, will demonstrate the outcomes, as outlined in The Kindergarten Program, 2006 (*revised*) document and The Full-Day Early Learning - Kindergarten Program. (*draft version*).

Classroom experiences and activities provide a balance of direct instruction and play-based learning with a focus on reading, writing, communication and math skills as well as the development of personal and social skills through group interaction, art, drama, science, music and healthy physical activities.

What is play-based learning and what does it look like in a Kindergarten classroom?

Play-based learning is a teaching approach strongly encouraged in Kindergarten classrooms. It consists of a purposeful physical learning environment, where educator(s) in the room actively teach, observe, and interact with children in large group, small group, and learning centre settings.

Children actively participate in hands on experiences to explore the natural and social world in authentic ways. The educator(s) in the room act as facilitators, observers and co-learners, as children develop their communication skills, critical thinking skills, and self confidence, as well as expressing themselves creatively during individual or group learning situations. Opportunities exist for both structured and child initiated play. A balance of opportunities for direct instruction and play-based learning is always considered.

What do children do during lunch time in Full-Day Kindergarten?

Children may go home during lunch time. For those students who remain at the school during lunch, supervision is provided.

Can parents opt for a half-day instead of a full-day program?

Schools with Full-Day Kindergarten offer a full-day program. The Full-Day Kindergarten Program is a wonderful opportunity for kindergarten aged children. At times, there may be an individual child who requires some additional time to transition into the full day of learning. School staff work alongside every child and family to ensure a successful transition to the full day program.

Which schools with Full-Day Kindergarten will have a Before and After School Program?

Schools with Full-Day Kindergarten survey parents during Kindergarten registration month (February) to determine interest in a *Before and After School Program*. The results of the survey will guide next steps. If there is sufficient interest, parents will be provided with further information in April, including information on a registration process and deposit. No program will be approved until sufficient registrations/deposits have been received. At schools where there is not sufficient interest, parents will be informed as early as possible so that other arrangements can be made.

