



Frequently-Asked Questions about Kindergarten

Who can attend Kindergarten?

Every child who lives in Toronto is welcome to attend a Toronto District School Board school. To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four by December 31 of that year. To attend Senior Kindergarten in September, children must turn five by December 31 of that year.

Although children are not legally required to attend Junior and/or Senior Kindergarten, most parents take advantage of this learning opportunity.

Who can register a child for Kindergarten?

Only a parent or legal guardian can register a child for Kindergarten in the Toronto District School Board.

How do I register my child for Kindergarten?

February is Kindergarten registration month in the Toronto District School Board. Each school designates specific registration days. Contact your local school for dates and times. Kindergarten registrations are also accepted throughout the school year for parents who miss the February registration dates. To find out which school your child should attend please call (416) 394-7526 or visit www.tdsb.on.ca and select Find Your School from the Quick Links menu.

When can I register my child in French Immersion?

The Toronto District School Board Early French Immersion Program begins in Senior Kindergarten. A second entry point for French Immersion is the Middle Immersion Program, which begins in Grade 4. For more information, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/programs/French/ or call (416) 394-6806. Please note that the home school for French Immersion in SK is designated by the home school address, not the school attended in JK.

What information do I need to bring to register my child for Kindergarten?

To register your child for all Kindergarten programs bring proof of:

- age (a birth certificate or baptismal record or passport)
- address (two pieces of identification that show your address, such as your telephone bill, drivers license, etc.)
- immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received)

Note:

If your child was not born in Canada, verification of date of arrival is required. Families who are permanent residents and refugee claimants may register directly at the school. All other families should come to the International Program and Admissions Office, Toronto District School Board, 5050 Yonge Street, for a TDSB School Admission Letter. Children without immigration status are welcome in our schools and information about them or their families shall not be shared with immigration authorities, as per TDSB Policy P.061 SCH.

What can I do if I don't have all of the above documents?

Every child who lives in Toronto is welcome to attend school in the Toronto District School Board. Visit the International Programs and Admissions office at 5050 Yonge Street, call (416) 395-9618, or email tisp@tdsb.on.ca to learn more.

What if my child has special needs?

All students must register or pre-register with their local home school. If your child has special needs and will be entering Kindergarten for the first time in September, call your local neighbourhood school during Kindergarten registration month (February) or earlier to set up an appointment with the principal and a representative from the Toronto District School Board Special Education department. At this meeting, you will be able to share any relevant documentation, identify your child's needs, and discuss supports that are currently available for your child. Through pre-planning, we can determine the supports and resources your child will need for a successful transition to school.

What if I want my child to attend a school that is different than the one designated by my home school by address?

You can apply to out-of-district schools through the Board's Optional Attendance policy at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca>. Please note that many TDSB schools are closed to optional attendance due to space limitations. You may want to contact your school of choice first to see if they are open to Optional Attendance applications.

What other information will my child's school need?

To help make school a safe and happy environment for your child, your school needs to know:

- the name your child is normally called, if it's different from that on the documentation above
- any allergies and/or other medical concerns
- parents' current phone numbers (home, work, cell)
- name and phone number of child care provider
- emergency contact name and phone number
- names of brothers and/or sisters attending the school
- language(s) spoken in the home
- any legal circumstances that may impact your child

It is important that this information be kept current. Please let the school know of any changes to the above information during the school year.

As part of the process of registering for school, you will be asked to complete a Developmental History Form. This form is used to collect important information about your child's interests and development. It will help the teacher in planning a program to meet your child's needs. You should also provide your child's teacher with the name and phone number of the person picking up the child, and with information about any personal situations that might affect your child's learning at school.

What do children learn in Kindergarten?

In Kindergarten, children learn information, build skills, and most importantly, develop positive attitudes about school. Kindergarten teachers plan a program covering six areas (Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Personal and Social Development, Health and Physical Activity, and the Arts). The program is based on the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training's The Kindergarten Program, Revised 2006 (available from www.edu.gov.on.ca). In Kindergarten classrooms, children will explore learning through drama, writing, book corner, painting and visual arts, and working with materials such as sand, water, blocks, and construction materials.

How can I get involved in my child's education?

There are many ways you can actively participate in your child's education and help your child be successful in school.

- Talk to your child about school every day.
- Read to your child.
- Praise your child's work. This builds your child's confidence.
- Note your child's strengths and the areas you feel your child needs to develop. Share this information with the teacher.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Become involved in school activities and the School Council.
- Support the classroom program by volunteering.

How will I know how my child is doing at school?

Your teacher will communicate with you in many ways throughout the school year. During parent-teacher interviews and on report cards, the teacher will share information about your child's progress and achievement. Since you know your child best, it is also important for you to share information about your child with the teacher. If questions or concerns arise, contact the school.

What child care programs are available in schools?

The Toronto District School Board believes that school is the very best environment for young children to be in – a safe, caring environment where infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, and kindergarten and school-age children are supervised by qualified staff. The TDSB currently houses more than 300 licensed, regulated child care sites in our schools. Most of these child care centres have a subsidy agreement with the City of Toronto. To find out more, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/childcare or phone (416) 394-2072 (East) or (416) 394-7369 (West).

What if my child attends a child care centre located within a TDSB school that is different than the one designated by my home school by address?

All children attending child care located within a TDSB school are considered in-district for the school hosting the child care as well as the school designated by home address. Please note that, if your child leaves the child care, you would be required to complete an optional attendance application for your child to remain at the school. If there is no space, your child would be required to return to the home school by address.

This flyer is also available on-line in Bengali, Chinese, Czech, Dari, Farsi, Gujarati, Hungarian, Obijway, Punjabi, Romanian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten to learn more.