

Starting Kindergarten

In The Toronto District School Board

Starting school is an exciting time of many firsts for your child. In the Toronto District School Board, teachers work with every child to ensure they are successful at school.

There are also many things you can do at home to help make starting school a positive and rewarding experience. By encouraging your child to try new activities and experiences, by talking about them, asking and answering their questions, you are helping to build a foundation for success at school.

Before the first day of school, take some time to visit the school with your child so that the route to school, the building, and the school surroundings become familiar.

Here are some suggestions to prepare for the school experience...

At School Children Will...

- Encounter new people and situations.
- Communicate needs to other children and adults.
- Dress themselves to play outside and to go home.
- Make choices (e.g., activities in the class, materials to use).
- Share materials and spaces with other children.
- Learn the routines for the classroom and school. They will begin to take responsibility for materials and their belongings.

At Home You Can...

- Involve your child in new situations where they will meet new people (e.g., visiting one of our TDSB Parenting and Family Literacy Centres or going to the library for storytime).
- Encourage your child to use language to make his/her needs known (e.g., going to the washroom, getting a drink) and to solve problems (e.g., when sharing with others).
- Encourage your child to put on clothing independently (e.g., jacket, boots or snow pants).
- Help your child make choices (e.g., which clothes to wear, activities to do).
- Give your child opportunities to be with other children, share, and take turns.
- Encourage your child to listen to directions and follow through with what is expected. Help your child take some responsibility (e.g., for putting own toys and belongings away).

At School Children Will...

Listen to stories, poems, and information. They will look at, talk about, and read books on their own and with others.

See adults and other children write for different purposes. They will use materials such as crayons, markers, and pencils for drawing and writing their own ideas.

Explore nature in the world around them and talk about what they see and learn.

Learn about numbers, shapes, patterns, estimating, and measuring. They will talk about their ideas and what they are learning.

Create art, explore and use art materials, build structures, take part in music, drama and movement activities.

Use a variety of materials and equipment to develop large and small muscles.

At Home You Can...

→ Tell stories, say poems, and sing songs in your own language. Read to your child and talk about the pictures, ideas, and words. Point out signs, words and numbers in the home and community. Visit the library together.

→ Involve your child in drawing and writing in everyday activities at home (e.g., making cards, signing own name, drawing pictures). Praise your child's attempts to draw and write. Talk about your child's name and the letters in it.

→ Talk to your child about the things you see and hear outside and on walks in the community. Point things out (e.g., changes in the weather, the seasons or places).

→ Talk about numbers, shapes and patterns at home and outside. Play games together (matching and counting, cards, simple board games). When cooking, let your child help with measuring ingredients. Involve your child in sorting (e.g., toys, clothes, putting away groceries).

→ Encourage your child's imagination and creativity through drawing, building, singing, moving to music, and acting out stories.

→ Provide opportunities for your child to exercise and use large muscles (e.g., running, climbing, playing with a ball) and small muscles (e.g., using crayons or markers, playdough, puzzles or toys with pieces that fit together).

You are your child's most important teacher.

The Toronto District School Board looks forward to working with you and your child during the next school year and over the years to come.

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.