



Explore



Learn



Play



Toronto  
District  
School  
Board

# Welcome

## to Kindergarten in the

### Toronto District School Board

Visit our website at [www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten)

**W**elcome to Kindergarten in the Toronto District School Board! Starting school is an exciting time of many firsts for all children. TDSB schools provide a rich learning environment with support from caring, competent teachers. In our schools, all children are supported so that they can learn, grow and experience success!

Parents/Guardians are a child's most important teacher and we encourage you to be involved in your child's education. You can make a difference at home by enjoying books together, asking your child questions and listening to the answers. At school, get to know your child's teacher and the principal of your school, attend parent-teacher interviews and participate in school activities. A high level of parent engagement leads to children who achieve higher success in school.

Together, we can create the nurturing environment that leads to a lifelong love of learning. We welcome you as you embark on this exciting journey!

**Chris Bolton,  
Chair of the Board**



## Some Ways to Help Your Child Get Ready Before the First Day of School

- Take some time to visit the school with your child, and talk about what your child might be doing at school.
- Talk about the day your child will actually start school, explaining that children may start on different days. Count down the days to school together.
- Familiarize your child with the route to school. Talk about school bus safety if your child will be taking the bus.
- Ensure that your child can express his or her needs to others (for example, if feeling ill or needing to use the washroom).

# S tarting School

Starting school is an exciting time in your child's life. In the Toronto District School Board, your child is entering a school system that values the uniqueness of each child and the diversity of all its learners. Teachers work with every child to ensure he or she is successful at school.

The Kindergarten Program provides opportunities for growth in six areas of learning:

**Personal and Social Development, Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Health and Physical Activity, and The Arts.**

In the Toronto District School Board, your child will participate in a full range of activities in all these areas – planned, taught, and supported by caring educators.



## **L**earning through Play

Play is a very important part of the Kindergarten program. Young children develop their skills and abilities best through learning-based play. Teachers plan learning experiences where children actively participate in doing and thinking.

There are important links between play and learning in the areas of problem solving, higher level thinking, creativity, and social skills.

EXPLORING  
the world  
around them

REPRESENTING their  
ideas



Learning  
through  
Play





INVESTIGATING  
and building  
with materials



Measuring  
and SOLVING  
problems

LEARNING  
how water  
moves

# **P**ersonal and Social Development

In Kindergarten, children are developing the skills to help them interact successfully with their peers and with adults. As they work with others, children begin to understand how to co-operate, share ideas, and work towards a goal.

**In Kindergarten, children participate in a variety of experiences to:**

- Learn and use problem solving strategies;
- Recognize and respond to the feelings of others;
- Begin to develop an awareness of others and foster respect for individual differences; and
- Learn about their classroom as a community, and the larger school community.



# L anguage

In Kindergarten, educators design opportunities for children to explore a wide variety of language experiences that develop foundational literacy skills.

## In the Kindergarten classroom:

- Children are encouraged to share their ideas in many ways, such as talking, drawing, painting, and writing.
- Children have opportunities to investigate, ask questions, and respond to texts.
- Children will develop strategies to enable them to become independent readers.
- The educators plan programs that allow children to develop an interest in writing, and to communicate their ideas in writing.



# Early French Immersion Program

- Begins in Senior Kindergarten ( students are 5 years old)
- Is designed for students who do not speak French at home
- Offers a classroom environment where French is the language of instruction for the whole day
- Follows the same curriculum as the English language Kindergarten (Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Health and Physical Activity, and The Arts) but all subjects are taught in French
- Includes learning through play, personal and social development, and oral communication as the foundation for literacy development



\* For further information please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/programs](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/programs)





# M

## athematics

Children begin to develop an understanding of mathematics skills and concepts by working with concrete materials like blocks and counters. They problem-solve, draw and write about their ideas, and share their understanding.

**In Kindergarten, the teacher plans opportunities for children to develop skills and concepts in the following five areas:**

- **Number Sense and Numeration** (counting in different ways, exploring how many, investigating numbers);
- **Measurement** (ordering and comparing objects, measuring in different ways with different materials, talking about what they are measuring);
- **Geometry and Spatial Sense** (sorting, building with, and talking about two- and three-dimensional objects);
- **Patterning** (recognizing and creating patterns); and
- **Data Management and Probability** (sorting, classifying, and comparing information on graphs made by the class).





# S science and Technology

Children are naturally curious and have many questions. They want to explore and experiment with things in their world. In Kindergarten they will be observing and sometimes recording what they see. The teacher will encourage children to talk about what they think will happen and why, and to test out their ideas.

## In Kindergarten:

- Children explore and care for the natural world;
- Children learn to conduct simple investigations using inquiry skills (questioning, planning, predicting, observing, and communicating);
- By exploring and building, children discover how technology helps us in our world; and
- Children carry out their own simple investigations safely using a variety of materials.



# Health and Physical Activity

Children are energetic and need to be active. Regular physical activity allows them to develop strength, co-ordination, balance, and healthy routines.



**Throughout the Kindergarten years, children will:**

- Have daily opportunities to be active in a range of physical activities and games;
- Be part of discussions about being healthy and safe;
- Learn about rules and co-operation in physical activities;
- Talk about healthy foods and routines; and
- Develop control of large and small muscles by using a variety of equipment.





## The Arts

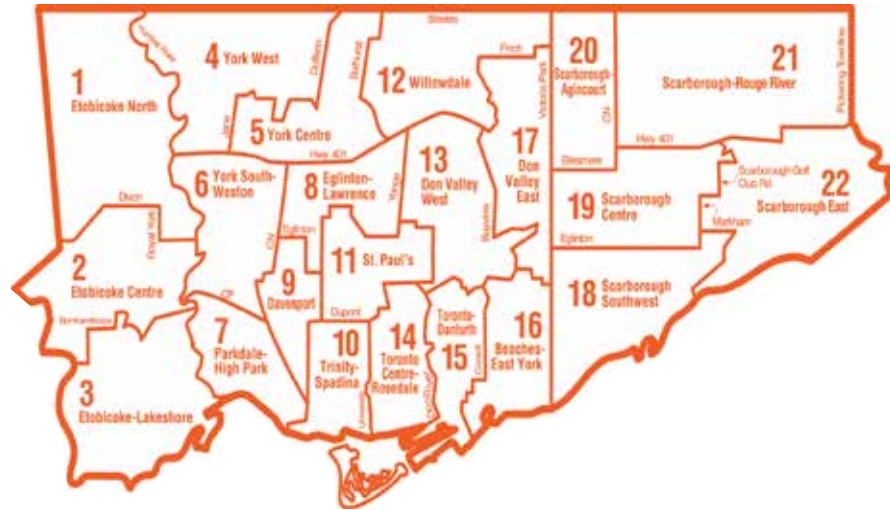
Children have natural creativity and a need to make sense of their world. Through Visual Arts, Music, Drama, and Dance, they explore the world by imagining and creating. They also learn about their own and other people's cultures.

**In Kindergarten, the program includes a variety of Arts experiences and activities where children:**

- Learn about themselves as artists by participating in visual arts, music, drama, and dance;
- Learn problem-solving skills when exploring a variety of materials;
- Express what they think and feel about various art forms; and
- Share their ideas and thinking.



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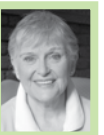
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This booklet is also available on-line in Bengali, Chinese, Czech, Dari, Farsi, Gujarati, Hungarian, Obijway, Punjabi, Romanian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

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