

# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



BELONGING

WELL-BEING

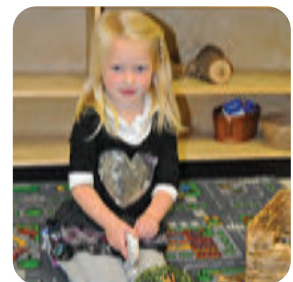
PROBLEM SOLVING

LITERACY/MATH

# Kindergarten

German for 'Children's Garden'.

A place where your child will learn and grow.



Learn more about Kindergarten in  
Trillium Lakelands District School Board  
1-888-526-5552    [tldsbc.ca](http://tldsbc.ca)

Welcome to kindergarten!

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to kindergarten. This can be both a wonderful and worrisome experience at the same time, but I'd like to assure you that you have made an excellent choice by sending your child to one of our schools. As you will see in the years ahead, everything we do is connected to the individual needs of our students and creating a positive and nurturing environment. We strongly believe in providing the very best for every student, and I know you will see our staff supporting your child as they discover and expand their love of learning.

I encourage you to take an active role in your child's education. In TLDSB, we value parent engagement and appreciate all that you do to support your child at home as they make their way through elementary and secondary school. Even a few minutes of reading or talking about what they learned that day can make a world of difference in how your child views and succeeds in school. Always know that our doors are open for two-way communication, and we welcome parent participation if you are able to do so.

As your child makes their way through school, you will undoubtedly have questions about topics like programs, curriculum, units of study, and school events. Please don't hesitate to speak directly to your child's educators or principal, as they are excellent sources of information and are always willing to work closely with you in supporting your child.

I wish you and your child all the best for a rewarding and enjoyable school experience in Trillium Lakelands District School Board.



Wes Hahn  
Director of Education

# Families + designated early childhood educators + teachers = child's support team

You are your child's first teacher and will continue to be the source of much of their learning. As your child enters school, we encourage you to speak with their educators, share observations, and ask questions about your child's progress. Your child's educators will be assessing your child's progress frequently, and will use many different strategies to paint a full picture of what and how your child is learning. You and your child's educators will be using that information to work together to support your child's progress throughout the year.

**Don't forget, we also love to have volunteers in our classrooms!**



# Play is learning

Play is the way children make sense of their world and learn! When children are playing, they are not taking a break. Educators use the curriculum, their knowledge of child development, and the needs of the students to thoughtfully choose materials and plan many different learning opportunities and experiences. In Kindergarten, your child will experience opportunities to learn many skills in literacy, mathematics, and social development through play. When children learn through play they are supported by the educator team who will be listening to, observing, and speaking with children to help them develop and apply their growing skills effectively.

As children learn through play they are:

- ✓ Showing skills they are learning.
- ✓ Exploring and investigating the use of carefully chosen materials.
- ✓ Building creative thinking and problem-solving skills.
- ✓ Watching and learning from one another.
- ✓ Learning to talk and listen to contribute ideas.
- ✓ Building early reading and writing skills.
- ✓ Building math skills such as counting, sorting, and comparing things.
- ✓ Practising social skills.



Research shows that children who engage in complex forms of socio-dramatic play have greater language skills than non-players, have improved social skills, more empathy, more imagination, and more of the subtle capacity to know what others mean. They are less aggressive and show more self-control and high levels of thinking.

- Crisis in Kindergarten: Why Children Need to Play in School (EMillers and JAlmin), Alliance for Childhood.



# A day in kinder might include...

Short, focused, whole group times.

Small group time to build specific skills and understanding.



Learning centres for play and exploration.

Wonder and discovery.

Mathematics.

Time to play outside.

Time to eat.

Literacy.



## What's it like? Lots of fun!



# Getting ready for kindergarten

You can help prepare your child for school by:

## Talking with your child:

Ask questions, share opinions, and thoughts.

Tell stories in the car, on walks, or in lines.

Sing the alphabet and other childhood songs, chants, and rhymes.

Practise good listening.

## Reading together and talking about what you read:

Some common questions and comments for you to use are: "What do you think this book will be about?" "What happened in the story?" "What did you learn?"

Go to the library together.

Connect what your child reads with what happens in real life.

## Exploring numbers and counting:

Count objects.

Work on puzzles, matching activities, memory games, etc.

Building with blocks.

Describe things around you using math language (size, shape, amount).

## Playing with writing:

Help your child learn to write their name.

Write lists, notes, and messages together.

Play with magnetic or plastic letters.

Notice that print is all around us! Look for road signs, store signs, and more!

## Some helpful independent skills to work on at home are:

Knowing their first and last name.

Understanding and following simple directions.

Asking for help.

Putting on and taking off their coat.



Sharing and taking turns.

Tidying up.

Using the bathroom and washing their hands.

Holding a pencil and cutting paper.

Putting on their shoes and fastening them.



# Getting ready for the first day of school

A few days before school begins, start getting your child (and yourself) used to the bedtime and wake-up schedule that school requires. Get everything ready a day or two in advance. Allow your child to choose an outfit they will be comfortable in. Practise walking to the school or bus stop. One day, before school starts, pack a lunch in your child's lunch box. Let them practise eating lunch from it.

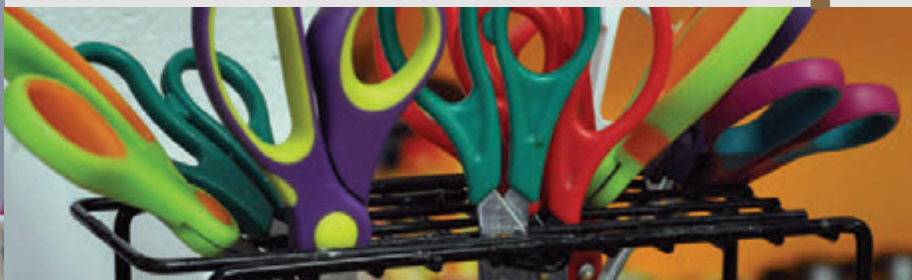
## Dress for success

- ✓ During the school day, your child will run, jump, sit, walk, and stretch.
- ✓ Choose clothing that will be comfortable.
- ✓ Kindergarten children learn best when they can explore, discover, and experiment, so choose clothes that are durable and easy to clean.
- ✓ Outdoor clothing is required for all types of weather. Choose clothes that your child can put on, take off, and fasten on their own (we don't want to waste fun time!).
- ✓ Label everything with your child's first name and the first letter of their last name.



## On the first day!

- ✓ Try to keep your morning routine consistent with a calm, unhurried breakfast.
- ✓ Make your 'good-bye' quick, light, and re-assuring (try not to communicate any feelings of anxiety and separation).
- ✓ Ensure that your child knows what will happen to them when school is over (who will be picking them up from the school/bus stop).
- ✓ Plan a special activity for yourself to help you cope with the temporary sense of loss you might be feeling.





# School adjustment

Use the first day to start routines that will make the whole school year great. Talk to your child every day about what happened at school, ask questions such as:

- ✓ What did you do that you enjoyed today?
- ✓ What did your educators read to you?
- ✓ What made you happy? Sad? Frustrated?
- ✓ Tell me more!

Look in your child's backpack for their work (another thing to talk about) and school communication.

You may wish to speak with the educators and your child about ways they can choose a quiet activity in the classroom (e.g. reading, listening, or puzzle centre) when their energy gets low. If you have any concerns, you can problem-solve with the educators to support your child.



## Stopping the spread of illnesses

Here are some tips to keep our kids healthy:

- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- ✓ Cover your cough/sneeze with your upper arm or tissue.
- ✓ Stay at home if you are sick.
- ✓ Discuss the flu shot with your health care provider.





# School bus safety

The following tips will help to ensure that your child arrives to and from school safely each day. With your help, we can make our roads and communities a safer place for our kids.

- ✓ Look both ways when crossing the street.
- ✓ Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- ✓ Stand at least five giant steps away from the curb.
- ✓ Never run after the bus after it has left the stop.
- ✓ Wait to approach the bus until it has completely stopped.
- ✓ Stay out of the danger zone.
- ✓ Never go behind the bus.
- ✓ Take turns getting on the bus.
- ✓ Go to your seat and sit quietly.
- ✓ Keep your hands and body parts inside the bus.







## Kindergarten is the most wonderful place to learn and grow!

In kindergarten classrooms, your child will develop a strong foundation for learning in all areas. They will grow through play-based learning and small group instruction with caring educators. Your child will learn about language and math, engage in healthy physical activities and the arts, and develop socially and emotionally through interaction with their peers and educators who guide them.

The evidence is clear - experiences in early childhood have a major impact on future learning, work, health, and social emotional make-up.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board is giving our children the best possible start!

# WHAT REAL KINDERGARTEN KIDS SAY THEY LOVE ABOUT LEARNING:

"WE PLAY" "WE CAN MAKE PATTERNS"

"WE CAN SING AND DANCE" "WE CAN SHARE"

"WE GET TO HELP CLEAN UP" "WE LAUGH A LOT!"

"WE HAVE A LOT OF FUN!" "WE LEARN IN CENTRES"

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