

# Welcome to Kindergarten

Registration opens in **February**



Our Kindergarten program provides young students with a rich and safe learning environment that enables all children to learn and grow.

At the TDSB, your child will have many opportunities to learn through play, build new skills and enhance their curiosity.

Starting Kindergarten is a very exciting time. We are here to support you and your child in getting ready for school during this important transition.

To learn more, please visit: [tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](https://tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten)



## Registration

To qualify for Junior Kindergarten, children must be four years of age by December 31 of that year. Go to [tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](https://tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten) or visit your local TDSB school to get started.



# Welcome to Kindergarten



## Starting school is an important milestone for children and their families.

At the TDSB, we are committed to creating inclusive, safe and caring classrooms that enable all children to learn and grow.

# Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK)

In the TDSB, 3, 4 and 5-year-old children benefit from a rich full-day program. Children learn through play, inquiry, and exploration in the classroom and outdoors.

**We believe that young children are curious, competent, and capable of complex thinking.** We are committed to providing high quality programming that will nourish each child's academic, social and emotional development and prepare them for success in school and in life.



# The Kindergarten Educator Team



At the TDSB, teachers and early childhood educators (ECE) are committed to creating inclusive, safe and caring classrooms. Our schools provide a respectful environment in which all children can learn and grow.

Teachers and early childhood educators work as a team to support children's learning.

Together they are able to:

- interact with each child every day to create a program based on your child's interests
- create a sense of belonging
- support their social and emotional needs and academic growth

A few of our classes have one teacher and 15 students. Classes that are larger have both a teacher and an ECE. In both situations, children are well supported by professional teachers and early childhood educators.

# Intentional Play-Based Learning

Research tells us that there is a direct link between play and learning for children. Kindergarten students at the TDSB flourish because they participate in planned, purposeful play.

Learning is integrated throughout the program enabling children to develop literacy and mathematical skills while fostering their independence, social skills and creativity.



To ensure children are equipped to succeed in today's global and digital world, our educators provide them with opportunities to be creative problem solvers. Classrooms across the TDSB are equipped with tablets, computer applications and a variety of software to promote innovation and teach students about safe and responsible use of technology.

# The Kindergarten Program



**Science explorations** build inquiry skills, such as asking questions, predicting, planning, testing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions.



**Outdoor learning** occurs daily. Experiences outside encourage connections that build a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world.



**Technology** is a tool children use to develop skills in designing, communicating, and researching and documenting their own learning.



**Literacy & numeracy** is embedded in the program in many ways. Children learn about letters and numbers, read a variety of books, and write messages.

# Come Learn With Us!



**Building** with blocks develops problem-solving and spatial-reasoning skills which are connected to science, mathematics and other subjects.



**Problem-solving** activities provide opportunities to explore, create, communicate, and ask questions while developing small and gross motor skills.



**Self-regulation or social emotional learning** involves communicating, reading, and writing. Through role play children build negotiation skills and empathy.



**The arts** allow children to express themselves in multiple ways. Exploring with various materials enhances creativity, and the development of communication skills.



In Kindergarten, your child will build learning: Belonging & Contributing, Mathematics Behaviours and Problem

## Belonging and Contributing

Children are connected to others and play an important role in contributing to various groups, the wider community and the world around them.



## Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours

Children think critically about the world around them and communicate their literacy and mathematical thinking and learning in different ways.





their skills, knowledge and experiences in four key areas of Self-Regulation & Well-Being, Demonstrating Literacy and Solving & Innovating



## Problem Solving and Innovating

Children make meaning of the world around them by observing, questioning, planning, exploring, testing theories and solving problems.



## Self-Regulation and Well-Being

Children develop a sense of self-awareness and an understanding of the importance of physical and mental health and wellness.

Source: The Kindergarten Program, 2016

# My Child Does Not Speak English Yet

More than half of TDSB families speak a language other than English at home. Research shows that maintaining your child's first language has tremendous long-term benefits. We encourage families to continue speaking and reading with their child in their home language. Your child's classroom teacher or early childhood educator can provide information about where to access materials such as children's books and other information in different languages.



TDSB's Kindergarten program also supports children who do not speak English to build their communication skills in English.

# Supporting All Children

Children in Kindergarten have a wide range of abilities, strengths and needs. We warmly welcome all children and work collaboratively with families to ensure a seamless transition into school.

Our priority is to ensure that all children have a positive experience in Kindergarten. Some children may have special education needs (e.g. physical disabilities, Speech & Language difficulties) or a diagnosis such as Autism Spectrum Disorder. In addition, some children may also require assistance in the area of personal care or skills of daily living. We are committed to making sure that all students with special education needs receive appropriate supports.



We encourage you to discuss the individual strengths and needs of your child and share any relevant documentation and concerns with the school upon registration. Please continue to discuss any concerns about your child with the teacher and early childhood educator. Educators and parents are partners in supporting young learners.

# Before- and After-School Programs



Many families require before- and after-school care for their children. There is an FDK Before- and After-School Program for 4 and 5-year-old children in many TDSB elementary schools. These programs are run by independent third party licensed child care operators or authorized recreational and skill building programs. In addition to these programs, TDSB also directly operates Extended Day Programs in some schools. These programs offer seamless learning experiences for children in FDK classrooms and are staffed by Designated Early Childhood Educators who work with children throughout the school day.

Find out more at [www.tdsb.on.ca/BASP](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/BASP) and [www.tdsb.on.ca/EDP](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EDP).

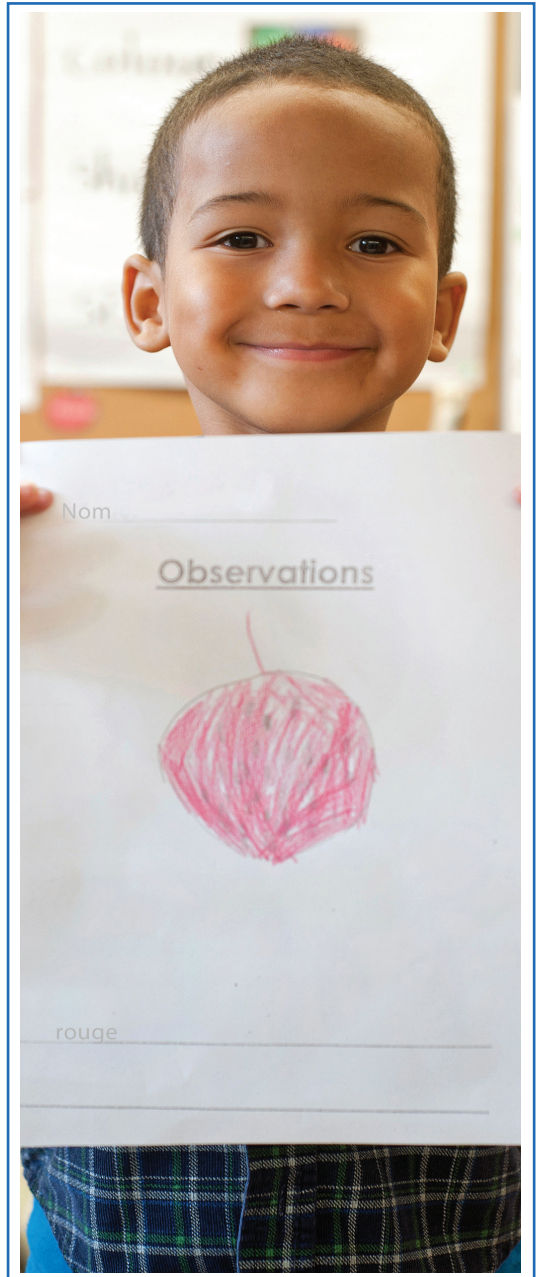
When you register your child at the school, speak with the Office Administrator or Principal about the availability of an FDK Before- and After-School Program or Extended Day Program, including details about wait-list, fees and registration.

# Early French Immersion Program

At the TDSB, the Early French Immersion program begins in Senior Kindergarten. This is an opportunity for all children to learn a second or third new language.

**Application to this program is made the year your child is in Junior Kindergarten.**

Your child's school will provide you with further information about the online registration process. Complete information about the French Immersion program, application procedures and important deadlines can be found at [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french).



# EarlyON Child and Family Centres

We invite you to visit an EarlyON Child and Family Centre with your child. In the TDSB, we have 75 school-based programs for parent(s) and/or caregiver(s), for children from birth to age 6. Parents/caregivers are fully involved in every activity. This includes them in their children's learning, builds confidence and connects them to other families. A listing of program locations is available at [www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyON](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyON).

These play-based programs are free and are designed to prepare children for learning in Kindergarten.



## Here is some feedback directly from a parent and a school principal after visiting an EarlyON Child and Family Centre:

*In addition to being a single parent I am also a newcomer to Canada and I cannot begin to express how stressful this time was for me. The EarlyON Child and Family Centre gave my son and I the ability learn about the education system, to network with the school and other parents, and made it easier for us to make the transition from one country to another and be a part of the community. (Parent)*

*Our EarlyON Child and Family Centres have provided families with an opportunity to build a positive relationship with our staff, principals and vice principals and has allowed us to teach the necessary skills that our young learners need to effectively make the transition to Kindergarten. Our EarlyON Child and Family Centres have created the feeling that our school is truly the hub of the community. (Principal)*

# Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for School

- Develop a relationship with your child's teacher and share information about his or her needs. Nobody knows your child like you do!
- Be positive and relaxed on their first day of school. Your attitude can greatly affect your child's feelings around school.
- Establish Kindergarten routines early, such as sharing with other kids, taking turns and listening to instructions.
- Talk to your child about what their day will be like at school and what sort of activities they will be taking part in.
- Ease anxiety around Kindergarten - talking positively will have an incredible effect on your child's approach to school.
- Encourage your child to use language to make his/her needs known and to solve problems (e.g. when sharing with others).
- Kindergarteners need to know how to make choices. Encourage choice at home during play time or while dressing themselves.
- Help prepare your child for math by talking about numbers, shapes and patterns at home and outside.



## Attendance Matters in Kindergarten

The early years are the foundation for developing children's self-confidence, academic skills and sense of responsibility. Regular attendance at school allows children to participate in and benefit from daily learning experiences. Children who attend school regularly tend to feel more connected to their school and are better able to develop meaningful friendships. Research has shown that regular attendance is an important factor in student achievement and well-being.

# How to Register for Kindergarten

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child! You may choose to register in person at your local school or online.

## In-Person Registration

### Step 1

Find your local school by visiting [www.tdsb.on.ca/schools](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/schools).

### Step 2

Contact your local school and make sure you have the following documents:

- Proof of age (birth certificate or passport)
- Proof of address (two pieces of identification that show your address)
- Proof of immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received)

1. Report online [www.toronto.ca/studentvaccines](http://www.toronto.ca/studentvaccines).

2. If unable to report online, parents can provide immunization information to the school and the school will mail a copy to Toronto Public Health. Toronto Public Health accepts and translates foreign immunization records.

3. If requesting an exemption, call 416-392-1250.

- Verification of date of arrival, if your child was not born in Canada.

## Online Registration

### Step 1

Access the online registration system at [www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten) to create an account, find your local school and complete an online registration form.

### Step 2

Once you have completed the online portion of the registration process, you will receive a confirmation e-mail, including information about required next steps (e.g. when to visit the school).



# How to Register for Kindergarten (Continued)

When you visit the school, make sure you have the following documents:

- Proof of age (birth certificate or passport)
- Proof of address (two pieces of identification that show your address)
- Proof of immunization (the card that shows a list of needles your child has received):

1. Report online [www.toronto.ca/studentvaccines](http://www.toronto.ca/studentvaccines).
2. If unable to report online, parents can provide immunization information to the school and the school will mail a copy to Toronto Public Health. Toronto Public Health accepts and translates foreign immunization records.
3. If requesting an exemption, call 416-392-1250.
  - Verification of date of arrival, if your child was not born in Canada.

Please note: only parents or legal guardians can register a child for TDSB programs.