

Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Parent/Caregiver Handbook

Kindergarten in a Catholic School

Children come to Kindergarten recognized as competent, capable, and a unique child of God. In a faith-based classroom, your child will be supported by a certified teacher and early childhood educator. Through instruction, inquiry, and play, your child will develop a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy, social emotional learning, and faith as they begin their journey in school, realizing the fullness of their humanity with Jesus Christ as the model.



What does learning look like in Kindergarten?

Over the next two years, your child will participate in a variety of learning opportunities that are categorized by the four frames of learning in the Ontario Ministry of Education Kindergarten Program, 2016.

Belonging & Contributing

Your child will learn to:

- play cooperatively with peers and share items within the classroom
- communicate thoughts and feelings
- use appropriate social skills in play and learning situations
- be part of the classroom, school, and parish community by helping others
- develop a sense of safety within the classroom and school
- develop and use problem-solving skills in classroom situations



What does learning look like in Kindergarten?

Self-Regulation & Well-Being

Your child will learn to:

- recognize their emotions and regulate them in social settings
- advocate for themselves and others appropriately
- take care of, and be responsible for their belongings
- show empathy for others
- make and keep friends
- eat healthy and make healthy choices
- use and control small and large muscle movements (printing/cutting; jumping/hopping)



What does learning look like in Kindergarten?

Demonstrating Literacy and Numeracy Behaviours

Your child will learn to:

- identify sounds in words, blend and segment them to read and write words
- understand the connection between letters and sounds
- name and print upper and lowercase letters accurately in and out of order
- identify, compose and decompose numbers to 10
- use one to one counting
- investigate concepts of addition and subtraction with concrete objects

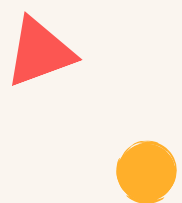


What does learning look like in Kindergarten?

Problem Solving & Innovating

Your child will learn to:

- ask questions and be curious about God's world
- apply problem-solving skills to different situations
- use technology safely to inquire, create, answer questions, and solve problems



Preparing for Kindergarten



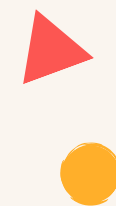
looksee
checklist[®] by ndds



The Looksee Checklist is an easy-to-use developmental tool that features a short list of “yes” or “no” questions about your child’s abilities with tips to help them grow.



Developmental Markers



Emotional

These questions focus on child's ability to identify self and relationship of self with others. This includes the development of a sense of safety and security.

Fine Motor

These questions focus on child's ability to develop strength, stability and control of hands and arms for functional movement. This includes the development of hand-eye coordination, visual motor and oral motor coordination for feeding and speech.

Gross Motor

These questions focus on child's ability to develop balance, coordination, strength, stability and body awareness through movement.

Social

These questions focus on child's ability to develop turn taking skills, sharing, cooperation and empathy through social interactions, games and play. Attachment and development of joint attention are also included.

Self-Help

These questions focus on child's ability to develop responsibility for daily activities, moving towards independence.

Communication

These questions focus on child's ability to develop language comprehension and expression through sounds, gestures, words, and word combinations. This area also includes receptive and expressive language, articulation, fluency and conversation.

Learning & Thinking

These questions focus on child's ability to explore, increase knowledge, and improve memory, reasoning and perception by acting upon objects within the environment through touch, smell, taste, hearing, and vision. Also included is child's ability to demonstrate awareness of self and others, motivation and attention to task.

Vision & Hearing

Visual and hearing activity can impact the child's ability to perform successfully on many items. If there are concerns, seek out an appropriate referral to an eye care and/or hearing professional.



1 Speak clearly enough to be understood all of the time by family?

Y N

2 Understand two and three step directions?

Y N

3 Speak in sentences of five or more words?

Y N

4 Understand and use some describing words?

Y N

5 Walk up the stairs using the handrail?

Y N

6 Stand on one foot briefly?

Y N

7 Throw a ball forward at least one metre (three feet)?

Y N

8 Twist lids off jars or turn knobs?

Y N

9 Turn the pages of a book one at a time?

Y N

10 Play make-believe games with actions and words? **Want more tea?**

Y N

11 Dress or undress with help?

Y N

12 Share some of the time?

Y N

13 Show affection with words and actions?

Y N

14 Play with others comfortably?

Y N

15 Cooperate with parent's request half of the time?

Y N

16 Listen to music or stories for 5–10 minutes with you?

Y N

17 Greet friends and familiar adults when reminded?

Y N

Child's Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Today's Date: _____

Notes: _____

The Importance of Families



You are your child's first teacher!

Now that your child is starting school, you continue to be an important part of your child's education. Your child is recognized for their unique talents, interests and needs, and the Kindergarten educator teams encourage communication between home and school in order to adjust instruction so as to best support the growth and development of your child.

The Importance of Families

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to be a part of the school and parish community. Through Catholic School Council or volunteer opportunities, you can become an active member.

To participate in field trips as a parent volunteer, you must obtain a Vulnerable Sector Screening from Hamilton police, central station. You can obtain a Volunteer letter and more information from your school secretary.

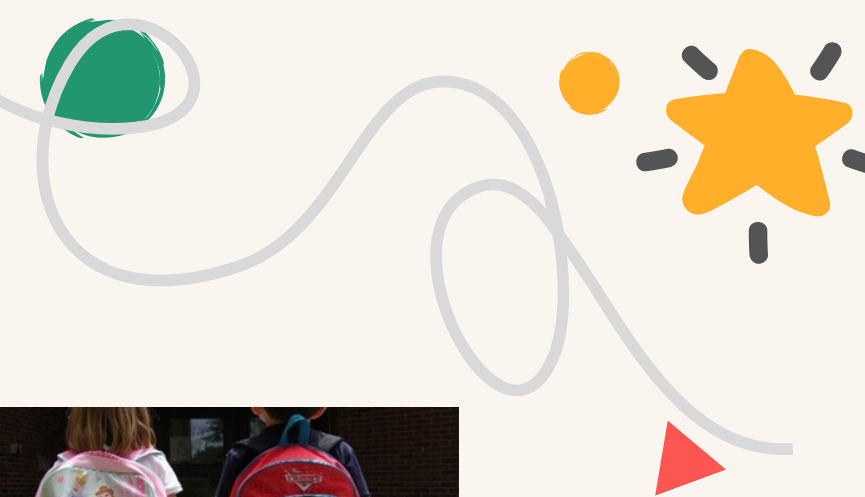


Preparing your child for Kindergarten



- Talk, read and sing to and with your child daily
- Encourage clear speech
- Encourage independent toileting and dressing
- Promote sharing and co-operation
- Introduce your child to painting, crayons, scissors, letters and numbers
- Practice opening and closing lunch containers
- Practice packing and unpacking schoolbag/backpack
- Visit Hamilton Public library branches for Kindergarten transition events
- Visit family resource programs such as EarlyOn
- Complete the LookSee Checklist developmental tool and review with health and/or child care professional



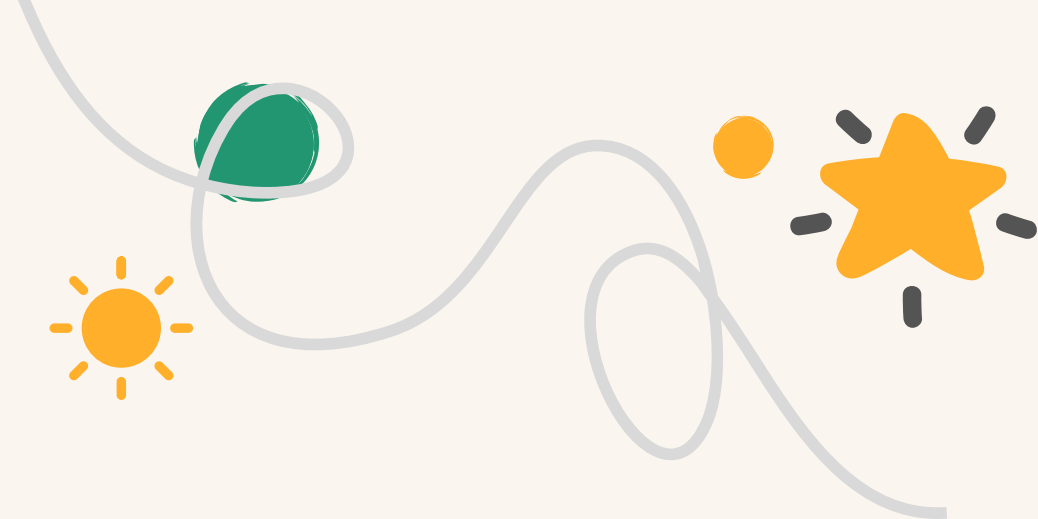


Preparing your child for Kindergarten

- Practice walking to school or bus stop ahead of the first day
- Make frequent visits to the school over the summer
- Gradually adjust bedtime and morning routines to fit the expected school schedule a couple of weeks in advance
- Talk to your child about the routines to be expected including drop off and pick up routines
- Allow your child to pick out a backpack and lunch bag that they like, to help with preparations and a positive start
- Be positive about the school start as children follow the lead of the parent/caregiver



Plan Ahead



Transportation

Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) provides transportation for eligible HWCDSB students. If your child is eligible, you will receive a letter from HWSTS in mid-August detailing the information for bus riders and their families/caregivers.

Before-and-After School Care

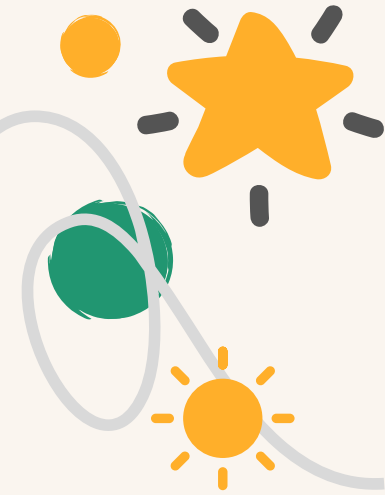
Independent providers offer licensed before-and-after-school care at HWCDSB schools. Contact your school for provider information.

School Orientation

Each school offers an orientation session to all newly registered Kindergarten students and their families/caregivers. This will support you and your child in getting familiar with the school community. If registered for school, you will be contacted by your school in the spring with the session information.



Plan Ahead - Items your child will need



Your child will need to come to school in September with...

- school uniform - navy and white (schools will provide supplier information)
- a school bag and lunch bag clearly labelled with your child's name
- a spare change of clothes and undergarments (e.g., socks and underwear)
- indoor running shoes clearly labelled with your child's name
- appropriate outdoor wear clearly labelled with your child's name (outdoor learning and play is a part of every day at school)



I am Special!

Anyone who welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me;
and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me.
For the least among you all, that is the one who is great.

Luke 9:48



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See you in September!



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