

welcome

to kindergarten



Pathways Welcomes You and Your Child to the Kindergarten Years!

Children begin a lifetime of learning at home. Kindergarten introduces them to the school years and helps to widen their learning horizons. These early years in education involve tremendous growth and learning. Parents and school staff working together as partners, can help to ensure all children fully develop their potential. This is your school system. We wish you and your child a warm welcome and a future of exciting learning experiences.

The learning journey

Children develop at different rates and in different ways. Each child is unique and has individual needs. Some children will benefit more from one type of teaching strategy than another; some may need more time than others or additional resources to achieve the learning goals.

In addition, the many diverse languages and cultures of our students contribute to differences in the ways in which they develop and learn.

From home to school and back again

It is our shared responsibility to ensure that your child's first school experience will be a time remembered with joy and a sense of accomplishment. Pathways strives to provide enriched, exciting, and positive learning experiences for all students.

These experiences will be foundational building blocks for future personal and academic learning and success. We look forward to creating strong links between home and school so that we can make each child's learning journey a successful one.



Getting Ready for Kindergarten: The First Steps

Learning to look after belongings

In Kindergarten, we help children develop independence. Your child will learn to dress and undress as independently as possible. So, it helps if the clothes are easy to take on and off. Please try to send a change of clothes in a labelled bag, to be kept at school...just in case.

It is helpful for your child to have more than one pair of shoes or slippers, one for indoors and one to wear outside. Please send shoes that have rubber soles and are easy for your child to put on. Velcro shoes are a good choice until we teach shoe tying.

Your child also needs a bag that is large enough to hold a lunch and books. Your child should use an appropriate size backpack that they can learn to utilize independently. (Easy zippers or closures are recommended.)

Playing and exploring outside

Outdoor activities are part of the daily kindergarten program. When you help your child dress for school, consider the weather so he or she will be comfortable outside.

Generally, if your child is not well enough to go outside, he or she is not well enough to be at school.



Managing the washroom alone

Kindergarten children use the washroom independently while at school. Be sure your child can wash hands with soap and water and manage clothing as independently as possible.

Accommodations can be made for learners that require extra support.

Before school starts

On the first day of school

- Be calm and positive about the new experience.
- Talk about the fun things your child will be doing.
- Take your child to school on time so she/he may experience the entry process with his/her peers.



Getting ready for Kindergarten: the first steps

Saying Goodbye

Give your child a “magic” kiss on his or her hand. These kisses don’t wash off and can be used whenever the child feels lonely or misses a parent.

Reassure your child that you know he or she will be fine.

Give your child another kiss and then calmly leave. It is usually easier for a tearful child to calm down when the parent is not there.



“Is it Lunch Yet?”

Your child will need a lunch bag or box that can be easily opened and closed. It is important to pack healthy foods that:

- are easy to open independently
- can be repacked if not finished
- do not require heating (if you wish to send warm foods please use a thermos)
- are in reusable or recyclable containers (remember to include utensils if needed)
- peanuts and nuts are welcome

For healthy lunch and snack ideas click [here](#).



What Happens at School?

The Child

Each child is a unique individual. Learning success depends on the development of feelings of confidence and self-esteem as well as the recognition of the value of the child's individual abilities.

The Educators

The teachers and early childhood educators create rich learning environments that are safe, caring, accepting, challenging, and stimulating. Children are expected to think, notice, question, explore, discover, and to make connections. The educators carefully observe each child in order to know his or her growing capabilities and then provide appropriate learning experiences.



Play

Play is the child's natural way of making sense of the world. Children learn when all their senses are actively involved. They need to talk and think about everything they do. Research indicates that play is the way young children learn best.

The Kindergarten Program

Kindergarten children are energetic, lively, sensitive, curious, and creative. They learn best in an active setting, manipulating and playing with materials, investigating, observing, experimenting, inquiring, drawing conclusions, and interacting with others.

Your child will have many experiences in the Kindergarten years that will prepare him or her for meeting expectations as outlined in the program.

Since children develop at different rates and in different ways the program is flexible and diverse. We provide a range of instructional supports and services to help all students learn and succeed - including early interventions, special education services, transition planning, etc.

Activities will engage all children in meaningful experiences which will be the foundations for:

- reading and writing
- solving problems
- manipulating materials
- speaking and listening
- viewing and thinking
- forming concepts

Your child's program will include four areas of learning. These areas are:

- Belonging and Contributing
- Self-Regulation and Well-Being
- Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours
- Problem Solving and Innovating

In our program, children:

- experience books, poems, verses, and dramas
- listen to and tell stories
- imagine, wonder and think
- read and write
- become aware of colour, shape/size, and numbers
- classify, sort, and compare
- climb, run, jump, push, pull, catch, and throw
- play alone or with others
- ride vehicles
- learn to share
- respond to rules and routines
- talk about safe behaviour
- talk about and/or express thoughts and feelings
- paint, draw, model, build and construct
- explore sand and water
- experiment
- sing, dance, move and make music
- play with dolls, puppets, and tools
- engage in dramatic play and role-playing
- explore, investigate, create, and represent
- solve problems
- work with computers
- look, listen, hear, touch and taste
- think and make decisions



Communication of learning

Communication between the teacher and home is crucial. You will learn about your child's growth at school in formal and informal ways.

Each class has a system of regular communication with home.

You may receive:

- newsletters
- monthly calendars
- agendas
- phone calls
- notes
- newsletters

Your child will receive a 'Communication of Learning' throughout the year.

You are encouraged to send notes, emails or make phone calls when you wish to share information or ask questions. It is important to share any concerns or ask questions so your child's school experiences remain positive. If a major issue or concern arises, a conference may be arranged.

Commit to Character

Pathways provides safe supportive environments for positive learning and working experiences for all students and staff. School initiatives are designed to teach and encourage students to be positive, productive members of our community. Character development is the intentional modeling, teaching, and practicing of positive character traits and is an integral part of each day.



Pathways Commitment to Character Traits

INTEGRITY OPTIMISM

We act justly and honourably in all that we do. We maintain a positive attitude and have hope for the future.

RESPONSIBILITY HONESTY

We are accountable for our actions and we follow through on our commitments. We behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner.

COOPERATION EMPATHY

We work together towards shared goals. We strive to understand and appreciate the and purposes, feelings and actions of others.

CARING COURAGE

We show kindness towards others. We do the right thing, even when it's difficult.

RESPECT

We treat ourselves, others and the environment with consideration and dignity. We include everyone in what we do and value their unique contributions.





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