

A magnifying glass with a blue handle and a silver rim is positioned in the upper left quadrant, partially overlapping the orange circular border. The lens is clear and shows a reflection of the background.

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

PARENT GUIDE





Kindergarten Parent Guide



Welcome!

The first day of Kindergarten is an exciting day for both you and your child.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child into our caring school community.

Prepare for the journey ahead using the information in this guide to help support your child's transition into Kindergarten.

Your child's safety is our first priority. You can learn more about our detailed safety protocol in our Parent Guide for Return to School, and on our website at dsbn.org. Our Health and Safety program is focused on the following areas: daily Health Assessments, Class Communities (cohorts), Minimizing Contact, Physical Distancing, Hygiene Practices, Signage, Enhanced Cleaning Program, Training on Health and Safety practices, Masks and PPE.

In this guide, we would like to share with you information specific to Kindergarten to help support your child's transition into school.





PLAY-BASED LEARNING

The Kindergarten program focuses on play-based learning. Your child will participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor learning centres throughout the day. Learning centres are structured so that all children are provided with opportunities to develop in the following areas at their own level of growth and development: Belonging & Contributing, Self-Regulation & Well-Being, Demonstrating Literacy & Mathematic Behaviours, and Problem Solving & Innovating. Throughout the day, staff will support small groups and individuals to work on skills and concepts appropriate to each child's level of development.

[Click on this link for more information: A Parent's Guide to Play-Based Learning in Full-Day Kindergarten](#)

OUTDOOR EXPLORATION

- ★ Outdoor play is an extension of the learning program. Outdoor play engages our student's natural curiosities, well-being and character development. Learning outdoors can also support the development of literacy and math skills as well as engage students in scientific inquiry, artistic expression and Indigenous perspectives that are different than in the regular classroom.
- ★ Each day your child will engage in play-based learning outdoors.
- ★ We get messy! Please make sure your child comes to school dressed for outdoor play and weather conditions (e.g., coats, snow pants, boots, etc.).





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THINGS YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO BRING TO SCHOOL:

Please label your child's personal belongings with their name.

- ★ A backpack that is large enough to carry their lunch bag.
- ★ A snack and lunch daily. Consider packing food in containers that can be easily opened by your child. Healthy snacks are encouraged.
- ★ Refillable water bottle.
- ★ Headphones to use with technology. Headphones that cover the ears work best. Place headphones in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc).
- ★ Indoor running shoes that will be kept at school. (e.g. velcro and slip on shoes).
- ★ Outer clothing (e.g., jacket, snow pants, etc.) appropriate for the weather.
- ★ A change of clothes that will be kept in their cubby or locker. Place clothes in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc bag).



THINGS MY CHILD SHOULD NOT BRING TO SCHOOL FROM HOME:

- ★ Toys or stuffies.
- ★ Any food containing any nut or nut product.
- ★ Shared foods (e.g., cupcakes, Timbits)



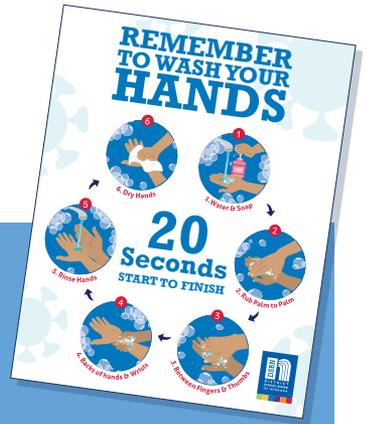
HOME TO SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

- ★ Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their child(ren) for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease on a daily basis before sending them to school. Your child must remain home if displaying any symptoms and not return to school until they have been assessed by a physician or nurse practitioner. Further guidance is provided in our Parent Guide and available at www.dsbn.org. Click on the 'Return to School' link.
- ★ Should your child become sick while at school, you will be contacted and you must have a person available to pick up your child right away.
- ★ To minimize the amount of materials travelling between home and school, electronic communication through email or D2L (Student Portfolios) is encouraged. Your child's teacher will communicate their preferred form of electronic communication.
- ★ If there is a change in routine or a change at home, please communicate with your child's teachers as these changes may impact your child's day at school.
- ★ At this time, if you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please understand that this will take place over the phone or through a virtual meeting until further notice.





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DAILY SCHOOL SAFETY ROUTINES

- ★ **HAND HYGIENE** - students will be taught and coached to engage in routine hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer. Hand hygiene will be practiced upon entry into the classroom, before and after eating, following washroom use, prior to moving into a new learning space within the classroom and prior to exiting the classroom.
- ★ **COUGH & SNEEZE ETIQUETTE** - students will be taught and coached to cough and/or sneeze into their elbow and to use a tissue to blow their nose.
- ★ Students will be coached to enjoy their own food. No sharing.
- ★ All school staff will wear a mask and additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as required.
- ★ Kindergarten students are encouraged but not required to wear a mask while indoors.
- ★ If you choose to have your child wear a mask while at school, students may wear their own non-medical mask. At home, help your child to practice safely putting on and removing their mask.
- ★ High touch points (e.g., door knobs, toilet handles, tables, etc.) will be sanitized at least twice a day.





ENTRY AND DISMISSAL ROUTINES

- ★ Students using school bus transportation will be greeted by staff and walked to and from the bus at arrival and dismissal times.
- ★ Parents dropping off their child(ren) are asked to adhere to the designated drop off and pick up areas outlined by the school.
- ★ Please adhere to physical distancing guidelines as per Public Health recommendations (remain 2 metres / 6 feet from other adults).
- ★ At this time, parents are not permitted to enter the school building when dropping off or picking up children. At this time, avoid congregating on school property.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- ★ Students will remain with their assigned classroom community throughout the day.
- ★ Staff will be supporting your child(ren) to minimize physical contact with others. Physical distancing will be supported through signs, making changes to classroom set-ups, education, encouragement and coaching.





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WHAT WILL THE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT LOOK LIKE?

- ★ A variety of toys and learning materials will continue to be available in the classroom.
- ★ Toys and learning materials will be available for play on a rotational basis to allow for disinfecting or wait time.
- ★ Toys and materials difficult to clean/disinfect have been removed (e.g. plush toys, upholstered furniture).
- ★ Your child will have opportunities to visit a variety of learning centres, both indoor and outdoor, throughout their day at school (e.g., math centre, literacy centre, art centre, building centre).
- ★ Children will have individual bins labelled with their name containing a variety of learning materials (e.g., crayons, scissors, math tools, playdough, etc.)



AT THIS TIME, WE ARE PAUSING:

- ★ School assemblies or other large gathers (e.g. concerts, dances)
- ★ Field trips
- ★ Pizza or hot lunch days
- ★ Use of some common areas: Learning Commons/Library, Computer Lab



How You Can Help Your Kindergarten Child At Home



TALK AT HOME

- ★ Oral communication is the foundation for literacy development.
- ★ Ask questions about the activities that your child engages in, about the daily story and about the friends and staff at school.
- ★ Encourage your child to speak in complete sentences and form proper questions.
- ★ Take every opportunity to encourage your child to ask questions about the world around them (e.g. What makes my kite stay in the air? Why do leaves change colours? What happens if I mix blue and red paint?). These questions (wonders) foster inquiry skills and critical thinking.



EXPECT APPROPRIATE SOCIAL SKILLS

- ★ Help your child be kind and courteous with children and adults.
- ★ Teamwork and good relationships are important life-long skills. Your child will learn to respect themselves and others through positive examples and reinforcement.



FOSTER INDEPENDENCE

- ★ Encourage your child to do things independently, such as doing up zippers, putting on shoes and coats, and opening snack containers.
- ★ Give them time and opportunities to solve some of their own problems.





How You Can Help Your Kindergarten Child At Home



ATTENDANCE

- ★ Regular attendance emphasizes the importance of learning and establishing good routines and attitudes for future years of schooling and eventually employment.
- ★ Punctuality is also important. It helps your child settle in for the school day. There are also some valuable learning activities that are completed in the first ten minutes of the school day.



DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

- ★ Help your child to form good eating and sleeping habits. A nutritious breakfast and plenty of sleep are important for learning. A child in Kindergarten should get 10 to 10.5 hours of sleep each night. Sleep is an important part of learning, as it gives our brain an opportunity to consolidate our learning.



DEVELOP PERSONAL SAFETY SKILLS

- ★ Help your child know their family name, address, telephone number and date of birth. Discussing stranger danger always keeps children aware of their surroundings.
- ★ Encourage a hand hygiene routine of washing hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer.
- ★ Encourage safe respiratory etiquette: coughing or sneezing into their elbow. Using a tissue to wipe or blow their nose, depositing the used tissue in a garbage container and washing hands after tissue use.

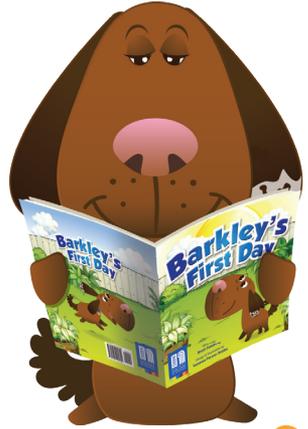


How You Can Help Your Kindergarten Child At Home



READ, READ, READ

- ★ Reading aloud daily with your child is the most important way that parents can assist the school in developing a love of reading. Families can help at home by reading to and with their child daily.
- ★ Encouraging them to write and draw. Children model what they see their parents doing. Showing your child that you read and write everyday will display the importance of reading and writing in their life.



MATH

- ★ Teach your child new skills through familiar activities, such as counting spoons at the dinner table.
- ★ Find ways to incorporate math concepts (e.g. measurement, counting, patterns, spatial sense, etc) and ask them to explain their thinking to you.



FINE AND GROSS MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

- ★ Provide opportunities to engage in indoor and outdoor play and exercise.
- ★ Encourage your child to manipulate small objects whenever possible, including using tweezers to pick up small objects, pouring water, using Playdoh, and using various materials to print and/or colour.
- ★ Whenever possible, promote running, jumping, skipping, hopping, and throwing balls.





www.dsbni.org

