

# Our Kindergarten Program

Helping Your Child Learn



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**GRAND ERIE**  
Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success



# Open Your Child's Eyes to the Wonders of the World

*You are your child's first teacher.*



*Children learn best through everyday activities. They are always discovering new things to look at and play with.*

As a parent, you have the important role of guiding your child through the world and answering all of the questions they have.

Being a part of their learning process now will help them perform better in school later. Encourage your children to ask questions and to explore new things.

Take them for walks, introduce them to new people, read books, listen to music and open their eyes to the wonders of the world around them.

Let Grand Erie help your child learn!

# Learning and Growing in Kindergarten

*Kindergarten is a place where your child will grow and learn. Here are some things you will see in your child's classroom:*

- *An interesting and interactive learning environment; and*
- *A variety of learning activities.*

*Children learn best through active experience. Here are ways Grand Erie will keep them engaged:*

## **Activities**

- *large and small blocks*
- *sand and water play*
- *shelf toys*
- *imaginative play*
- *books*
- *arts and crafts*
- *puzzles and games*

## **Hands-on Learning**

- *active play*
- *reading*
- *letter and sound recognition*
- *counting*



## Learning Expectations

**“What are we doing today?”**



*School is a great place for your kids to learn. They get to meet new people, discover new things and have fun.*

The Kindergarten curriculum is made up of six areas of learning. All of these areas help your child's mind develop.

1. Personal & Social Development
2. Language
3. Mathematics
4. Science & Technology
5. Health & Physical Activity
6. The Arts

## Personal and Social Development

**“How did you do that? Let me try!”**

*Here is what your child will be able to do by the end of Kindergarten:*

- a) demonstrate a sense of identity and a positive self-image;
- b) demonstrate an awareness of their surroundings;
- c) understand that diversity exists in the world around them;
- d) demonstrate independence, self-control, and a willingness to take responsibility in learning and other activities;
- e) use problem-solving skills in different situations; and
- f) use social skills in play and other situations.

*Here are some ways for you to help your child develop their personal and social skills:*

- ✓ Make it a habit to ask them about their day.
- ✓ Ask questions about what they did and who they met.
- ✓ Have your child call a relative or family friend to tell them about what's going on in their lives.

## Language

### “What’s that called?”



*Here is what your child will be able to do by the end of Kindergarten:*

- a)** communicate by speaking and listening to others;
- b)** understand a variety of information explored by and with the teacher;
- c)** use reading and writing strategies that are appropriate for beginners; and
- d)** understand and share ideas about stories that are read aloud by the teacher.

*Here are some ways for you to help your child develop their language skills:*

- ✓ Ask your child to name different things around the house or in the neighbourhood.
- ✓ Read a book with your child and have them explain what is going on in the story.
- ✓ Ask your child to tell you a story.
- ✓ Help your child write their name and get familiar with the way it looks.

## Mathematics

### “May I have two more cookies?”

*Here is what your child will be able to do by the end of Kindergarten:*

- a)** show an understanding of numbers through counting and comparison;
- b)** measure and compare the qualities of objects and materials (i.e. blocks, water, sand) through free exploration and guided activity;
- c)** describe, sort and compare shapes and objects;
- d)** explore, recognize and create patterns using a variety of materials;
- e)** classify and display information using graphs and charts; and
- f)** begin to predict the outcome of everyday events.

*Here are some ways for you to help your child develop their mathematics skills:*

- ✓ Bring your child to the grocery store and have them look for numbers.
- ✓ Let your child help you cook and have them measure ingredients.
- ✓ Go for a walk and count cars or houses.
- ✓ Sort fruit by colour, shape and size.

## Science and Technology

### “Why is it raining?”



*Here is what your child will be able to do by the end of Kindergarten:*

- a)** learn about their surroundings through hands-on exploration;
- b)** investigate and talk about the characteristics and functions of some common materials, and how to use these materials safely;
- c)** investigate the world around them by observing, questioning, and sharing their findings;
- d)** demonstrate an understanding of, and care for, the natural world; and
- e)** recognize and use some common forms of technology.

*Here are some ways for you to help your child develop their science and technology skills:*

- ✓ Talk about the weather and describe it. Discuss the clothing that should be worn for different weather conditions.
- ✓ Have your child help you sort the laundry or empty the dishwasher.
- ✓ Explain how familiar things work, such as a bicycle or a DVD player.

## Health and Physical Activity

### “I’m hungry. Let’s have a snack!”

*Here is what your child will be able to do by the end of Kindergarten:*

- a)** demonstrate an awareness of health and safety practices for themselves and others and a basic awareness of their own well-being;
- b)** participate in activities that require the use of both large and small muscles;
- c)** develop control of large muscles; and
- d)** develop control of small muscles.



*Here are some ways for you to help your child develop their health and physical skills:*

- ✓ Have your child help you prepare healthy snacks and lunches.
- ✓ Go for walks and play games.
- ✓ Encourage a positive and fair attitude.

## The Arts

### “Let’s draw!”



*Here is what your child will be able to do by the end of Kindergarten:*

- a)** show awareness of themselves as artists through drawing, painting, music, drama, and dance;
- b)** use skills gained through activities in the arts (i.e. colour mixing, using paste);
- c)** use problem-solving strategies in the arts both individually and with others (i.e. following directions, sharing materials);
- d)** explore a variety of art forms, including those from other cultures; and
- e)** express their ideas through various art forms.

*Here are some ways for you to help your child develop their artistic abilities:*

- ✓ Draw a picture on a blank page.
- ✓ Make crafts using things with different textures and sizes from around the house.
- ✓ Sing a song and make up actions.

## Volunteering\* and Being a Part of the School

*Children perform better in school when their parents take an active part in their education. There are many ways for you to be part of your child's education.*

One of the best ways is by getting involved with their school. Here are some ways you can do this:

- attend Parent/Teacher interviews;
- join a Parent Organization;
- volunteer in the school library;
- help take care of the general school environment; and/or
- come along and chaperone school trips.

*\* All volunteers must have a police check and authorization from the school principal.*

*Here are some ways that being involved with the Grand Erie school community can benefit your child's education. You will be able to:*

- communicate more comfortably with his or her teacher;
- easily offer relevant information to the teacher about your child; and
- ask the teacher about your child's progress more often.



## Let's have a great year!

GRAND ERIE



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