

You play a vital role in the success of your child. The combination of a secure home and school life creates children who are eager to learn and motivated to succeed.

Cheer your child on!

- When children know that you are proud of them for trying hard, trying something new or doing something on their own, it gives them the confidence to continue trying new things and to become more independent. Cheering your child on with your words and actions will encourage confidence and help prepare for the many new ideas and situations to be experienced at school.

Children who come to school with confidence look forward to school and are not afraid of the many new people and situations they will face. Your child will begin school ready to learn. Teach your child to think, “I can do it!”



If you are worried about your child’s readiness for Junior and Senior Kindergarten, or if your child is difficult to understand or has other special needs, please contact your child’s principal as early as possible. Schools can be a good source of information and may be able to help you get support for your child.

For more information on Kindergarten readiness, please contact:

- your school’s principal, or
- your local Health Unit or Ontario Early Years Centre.

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

A guide

for parents and guardians





As your child's first teacher, you taught your child to walk and talk and belong as a happy member of your family. By building your child's confidence and readiness for school, you will be climbing another step on the path to success.

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board wants all children to enjoy a positive and successful start in school. As a parent, there are many ways you can help your child come to school eager to learn. This brochure offers some tips to help parents prepare their children for school.

What should my child know?

Whether starting in Junior or Senior Kindergarten, each child will arrive at school with different skills, knowledge and experience.

Developing early literacy skills is key to establishing a strong start for your child. There are several things most four or five-year-olds should know before starting Kindergarten:

- their first and last name and the names of family members
- their age
- where they live and their phone number.

How independent should my child be?

Attending school requires some independence for children. Before attending school, most children should be able to:

- get dressed
- tie shoelaces or do up velcro straps
- use the bathroom
- eat snacks or a meal
- speak in a way that is understandable to others.

Of course, all children are unique, and some children may have special needs that affect their skill in certain tasks. Speak to the principal of the school your child will attend about how you can work together to meet your child's special abilities and needs.

How can I encourage my child?

Learning is a social activity. Interaction with other children and adults helps your child gain confidence and many of the skills necessary in school and in life.

Encourage your child to:

- speak about feelings and actions
- take turns, co-operate and share with others
- use markers, crayons, paint and scissors
- sit and listen to stories and music, or play a game



- play with toys and put them away when finished or when play time is over
- participate in new experiences
- talk to others about interesting activities or events.

As a parent, you can improve your child's interpersonal and communications skills by:

- talking to your child about experiences or events and encouraging her to talk with you
- giving your child the opportunity to participate in play groups or nursery school
- introducing your child to babysitters, family friends or religious or community teachers
- allowing your child to be a problem solver who works simple things out on his own
- helping your child to be a good listener
- finding a few minutes each day to give your child your individual attention
- letting your child see you reading and writing.

How else can I help my child?

- Read to your child daily.
- Ensure your child is well rested and in good health.
- Provide healthy snacks to give your child enough energy to get the most out of the Kindergarten experience.
- Show your child a positive attitude towards school.
- Teach skills at home to instill confidence and help your child succeed in the first years of school.
- Talk to your child. The more words you speak, the faster your child's vocabulary will grow.