



Parent News

Full Day Senior Kindergarten



In Kindergarten, children's receptivity to new influences and capacity to learn are at their peak. The Toronto Catholic District School Board is excited to provide full day, everyday Senior Kindergarten programs in seven schools across our system. This is a promising opportunity for our students, parents and teachers.

Program Goals:

- To provide an exemplary full day Senior Kindergarten program that will help children develop morally, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development
- To ensure that children leave Senior Kindergarten with a stronger foundation of literacy and numeracy skills
- To integrate the educational concepts of health, social and emotional well-being into a full day Senior Kindergarten program
- To enhance children's feelings of self worth and appreciation of their own and other peoples' ethnicity, culture and language in a multicultural society
- To provide for the prevention, early identification and early intervention of problems that interferes with the development of children's learning

- To recognize the value of parents as partners in the education of their children
- To establish links with communities services as resources and support for students, parents and teachers

The research indicates that students, parents and teachers all benefit from full day Kindergarten programs.

Benefits for Students:

- More time and opportunity to play with and develop language
- A more flexible and individualized learning environment to develop interests and activities
- More time to engage in social and creative activities
- A less hectic day
- An easier transition into grade one

Benefits for Parents and Families:

- Lower child care costs with less difficulty scheduling childcare and transportation
- More opportunities to communicate with the teacher and to get involved in their child's classroom

Benefits for Teachers:

- Increased time for a more thorough teaching of the curriculum expectations, more individual and small group work and assessment
- Reduced ratio of transition time to learning time

Some Commonly Asked Questions

Will the children receive a grade one program?

No, the focus is on a more thorough, in-depth teaching of the expectations from *The Revised Kindergarten Program* (Ministry of Education, 2006).

Will there be a great focus on seatwork and worksheets?

The focus will not be on more worksheets or seatwork. The children are provided with more opportunity to play, explore and learn through developmentally appropriate instructional strategies and groupings depending upon needs and interests.

What about the children who will be tired from the full day?

It is a possibility that some children may be tired at first. Opportunities for rest and/or quiet times are provided daily as needed. Flexibility is key.

What about supervision during the lunch hour?

A lunchtime supervisor is assigned for each full day Senior Kindergarten classroom to supervise children who will be staying at school for lunch. The classroom teacher will establish rules, expectations and routines with the supervisor and the children regarding noontime procedures. Staying for lunch at school is a privilege and parents will be contacted if there are any difficulties.

Ways to Help with the Transition from a Half to a Full Day:

- Ensure your child has a regular, early bedtime.
- Pack snacks, lunch separately, and explain the difference to your child.
- Pack a blanket or soft cuddly toy in your child's knapsack for rest or quiet times.
- Be positive. Talk openly about your child's feelings.
- Discuss any concerns with your child's teacher.

Participating Schools for 2006-2007

St. Thomas More Catholic School
2300 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough

St. Boniface Catholic School
20 Markanna Drive, Scarborough

St. Luigi Catholic School
2 Ruskin Avenue, Toronto

St. Augustine Catholic School
98 Shoreham Drive, North York

St. Teresa Catholic School
110 Tenth Street, Etobicoke

Blessed Margherita of Citta di Castello Catholic School
108 Spenvally Drive, North York

St. Dorothy Catholic School
155 John Garland Boulevard,
Etobicoke

The Toronto Catholic District School Board

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