

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FAQ

WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN AND DO?

Through fun, play-based learning and small group instruction, children develop a strong foundation for learning in all areas, including language and math. As children play and explore, they immerse themselves in healthy physical activities and the arts. Children are encouraged to investigate, problem-solve, and collaborate through interactions with their peers and with guidance from their educators. Both a teacher and an early childhood educator (ECE) encourage social and emotional development, with children leading their individualized learning journey.

WHAT MAKES THIS PROGRAM DIFFERENT FROM PAST KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS?

Full-Day Kindergarten is a two-year program for students who are four and five years of age. These classrooms have both a qualified classroom teacher and a certified ECE (in classes of 16 or more students) so that students receive more personalized attention. Rather than being separated into Junior and Senior Kindergarten, students in the Full-Day Kindergarten Program learn from both their educators as well as their peers. Students in Year Two of the program (formerly called Senior Kindergarten) learn about leadership and mentoring by working with the Year One students (formerly called Junior Kindergarten). Every effort is made to keep the same students and the same educator team together over the two years of the program. The teacher and ECE are guided by the 2016 Kindergarten Program document, which is based on the most up-to-date information about child development and how children learn best.

WHERE CAN PARENTS/FAMILIES GET MORE INFORMATION?

Parents can visit the board website at www.kpdsb.ca

WHO IS WORKING IN THE CLASSROOM?

Teachers and early childhood educators (ECEs) work together in Kindergarten classrooms to help young students learn during the regular school day. These educators have complementary skills that create a learning environment to support the unique needs of each child. With two qualified professionals in the classroom for the full school day, there is more time for individual and small group instruction.

WHY SHOULD PARENTS ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN THE FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM?

Students in Kindergarten benefit from:

- ★ **A stronger start in school**—A full day of learning early in life can help improve a child's reading, writing, and math skills, and provide a strong foundation for future learning. It also makes the transition to Grade 1 easier for both the parent and the child.
- ★ **More time with classmates**—During the regular school day, students will benefit from being able to socialize with other children and develop the academic and social skills necessary for future success.
- ★ **A seamless and integrated day**—Children remain in familiar surroundings with staff and friends, rather than moving between different programs and locations.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

There is no cost for the regular school day. At schools where a before- and after-school program is available, those costs are determined by the child care provider running the program. Some subsidies are available.