

How can I be involved?

Your involvement in your child's learning is vitally important at every stage of his or her education. Here are some simple ways you can help your child make the most of full-day kindergarten:

- Talk to the teacher and early childhood educators and ask how you can support your child at home every day; for example, by reading to your child, playing with your child, and enjoying other learning activities
- Show an interest in your child's learning by asking what your child learned today and make school and learning an important part of family conversation
- Attend information meetings and other events organized for parents and families
- Speak to your child's teacher or early childhood educator if you have any questions or concerns about your child's school experience.

Why has Ontario introduced full-day kindergarten?

In today's complex world, education is more important than ever for our children. Full-day kindergarten is designed to give your child a stronger start in school and in life. Full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds is part of Ontario's plan to support early learning and child development, build a stronger school system and contribute to Ontario's long-term economic competitive advantage.



Examples of activities in the classroom

Exploration and investigation:

Several children design small boats and then bring them over to the water centre. Each child puts his or her boat in the water and then places one shell at a time in the boat. Another child helps keep track of the number of shells using a simple tally. The teacher or early childhood educator asks the children to find out which boat held the most shells before sinking and think about how it is different from the other boats.

Creative thinking:

A small group of children makes several attempts to build a tower as tall as they are. Through trial and error, they discover that if they make the bottom of the tower wider they can build it taller. They draw a picture of the finished product and label the pictures to show their solution.

Observing and learning:

After making bird feeders from recycled materials, the children place them in the tree outside their classroom window. They observe and record the activity that takes place at each of the feeders. With support from the teacher and early childhood educator, and based on their own observations, some of the children make modifications to their feeders and place them back outside to observe the effect of the changes on bird activity.



Do you have additional questions?

Ask your school principal for more information about full-day kindergarten in your school. You can also find out more about full-day kindergarten and see a list of selected schools at:

ontario.ca/kindergarten

A QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE FOR PARENTS



FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN



time to learn, grow and play



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Beginning full-day kindergarten is an exciting new step – for your child and for you.

This guide will provide you with some details about full-day kindergarten and answer some questions you may have about how it works and how it will help your child.



What is full-day kindergarten?

Ontario is beginning to implement full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds with a seamless and integrated day that includes:

- An engaging, play-based educational program during the regular school day
- Integrated programs before and after school hours designed to complement the regular school day. These are optional and are offered to parents for a reasonable fee. Subsidies will be available for families that qualify. Boards will offer integrated programs before and after school hours based on parent demand.

Who will support my child’s learning?

Teachers and early childhood educators (ECEs) will work together to help children learn during the school day. They will implement a carefully planned program that is challenging and geared to each child’s level of development.

Each child will benefit from the complementary skills and experience that early childhood educators and teachers bring to the program. With two qualified professionals in the classroom for the full school day, students will get more individual attention and opportunities to learn.

Since early childhood educators are responsible for delivering the programs before and after school hours, they will provide a familiar face and a sense of continuity for these young students.



How will my child benefit?

Your child will benefit from:

- **A stronger start in school**
A full day of learning early in life can help improve your 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 you and your child. When the introduction to school is an enjoyable experience, children are more inclined to learn and will be eager to be part of the school experience.
- **More time with classmates**
During the regular school day, your child will benefit from being able to socialize with other children and develop the academic and social skills necessary for future success. In addition, the program before and after school hours will complement what your child learns and does during the regular school day.
- **A seamless and integrated day**
Your child will remain in familiar surroundings with staff and friends, rather than moving between different programs and locations.



What will my child learn and do during the regular school day?

Your child will be involved in many different kinds of activities designed to help young learners explore, discover and grow.

Research shows that there is a strong link between play and learning for young children, especially in the areas of problem solving, language and number skills, and social, physical and emotional skills. Your child will take part in spontaneous play, and also in more structured play-based learning, under the guidance of the teacher and early childhood educator. These activities will help your child to think creatively, explore and investigate, solve problems and share the learning with others.

Teachers and early childhood educators in full-day kindergarten classes will be guided by a new curriculum document which is designed to help your child develop the social, emotional, academic and physical skills that provide a good foundation for success in school and throughout life.

What will my child learn and do before and after school?

The seamless and integrated programs before and after school hours will complement what happens during the regular school day. Under the care of an early childhood educator, students will participate in quiet reading time, activities in the gym or outside, computer lab visits, and free play time in the classroom. The programs are optional and offered at a reasonable fee determined by the school board. As boards begin to offer the programs before and after school hours, they will be able to provide more information as part of kindergarten registration. Check with your local principal or board for more details.

How the day works with a Teacher and Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)

