



Understanding Kindergarten in Ontario

A Resource for Families New to
Canada and Waterloo Region

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What are my options for school?

Public & French Immersion



Waterloo District School Board offers both full day English and French Immersion in our region. However, not all schools will participate in French Immersion. Connecting with your local school if you are interested in your child attending French Immersion.

Catholic



Waterloo District Catholic School Board is another option for parents in the region. Admission requires a parent or child be baptized Roman Catholic. The Catholic Board offers French Immersion as well as English instruction.

French (Public and Catholic)



Conseil scolaire Viamonde - Instruction will be in French and is public, however it is highly recommended that at least one parent is fluent in French.



Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir – Instruction will be in French, however admission requires parent or child be baptized Roman Catholic.

Visit www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca to access addition information

Parents Hopes for School in Canada

What parents wonder?

Entering school can be a challenging time for children and families. For parents new to Canada this transition creates different challenges, hopes and expectations of education in Canada.

*“I hope my children will learn about community
by attending school in Canada”*

– SSIC parent August 2018

As children approach the transition to school, new comers to Canada wonder about the success of their children.

Parents are wondering:

- How to best prepare their children socially for school, making friends?
- Throughout the day self-help skills such as dressing and eating, how will my child be supported at school?
- How does play based learning prepare my child for academic success?
- Supporting their children in decision making and problem solving to address a variety of academic or social challenges.
- How do I support my child in learning English while maintaining our home language?

Do you have questions? Our Place offers programming that provides opportunity to connect with other parents and staff. Call for current list of programs.

Programs Supporting Transition to Kindergarten

Supporting families and children through belonging and fun learning experiences



Coming together to sing, connect, and build a sense of belonging and contribution to the program.

Activities engage families in exploring literacy activities, expanding on their understanding and developing new skills.

Parents meet and discuss questions and offer support to each other.

Many programs offered in the Region of Waterloo, allow families to connect with other families. For information on programs contact Our Place and speak to a Registered Early Childhood Educator.



Fun hands on math activities to support developing mathematical and literacy behaviours.

– The Kindergarten Program 2016

Additional websites to visit:

Ministry of Education

www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/howcanipreparemychild.html

Best Start

www.beststart.org/resources/hlthy_chld_dev/school_readiness_ENG_Nov2013_blur.pdfest

Four Frames of Kindergarten

Kindergarten in Ontario supports children's learning by using the four frames of the Full Day Kindergarten Curriculum. Children will have a Teacher and a Registered Early Childhood Educator to support their learning at school

The four frames support your children's learning through a two year kindergarten program focusing on

- Belonging and Contributing
- Self-Regulation and Well-being
- Problem Solving and Innovation
- Developing Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours

They are the first and most powerful influence on a child's learning, development, health and well-being.

– Statement about families, The Kindergarten Program 2016

You are Your Child's First Teacher

Parents are valued partners, the first teacher children have. As parents you have the most important role in preparing your child for transition to school.

Engaging in everyday activities like looking at a book, taking a walk and talking about nature, cooking together, playing at neighbourhood parks, visiting your local library or farmers market.



Preparing for School

Self Help



Encourage your child to eat independently, dress themselves, and practice opening and closing containers. Provide time for your child to dress independently, practicing zippers even if it takes them a little longer. Be patient.

Routines



Establishing routines helps children get enough sleep and anticipate what will be happening next. Getting enough sleep is one way that helps your child learn better at school.

Play and Learning



Play is an important part of a child's learning experience. Using play to invite opportunities for exploring an interest like trains, cooking or building. Through play, children develop important social skills, learning to play around other children, learning to take turns or share toys and materials.



Our team of staff are available to assist families with questions about their child's development and can help connect families to available programming.

- Visit our website at www.ourplacekw.ca
- Connect with us on social media at our Facebook page.
- Visit www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca to access addition information

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