



HAMILTON-
WENTWORTH
DISTRICT
SCHOOL
BOARD



Kindergarten



Learn and Grow
with HWDSB!

www.hwdsb.on.ca

ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



great beginnings start at HWDSB

Welcome to Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Kindergarten Program, a partnership for great beginnings.

Kindergarten at HWDSB



HWDSB schools are exciting, enriching places for young learners to receive an education. They learn to explore the world around them, solve problems, and make new friends.

Our Kindergarten Program helps students get off to the best possible start. Your child will be challenged and encouraged to do his or her very best. Our caring teachers are with them every step of the way!

Advantages to HWDSB's Kindergarten Program

- Safe school environments in which your child will learn
- Parental involvement opportunities in every school
- Community partnerships to enhance your child's learning experience
- Access to numerous resources and support services
- Caring, well-trained Kindergarten teachers and staff
- Early learning and child care facilities are available at selected schools
- Alternative models of delivery of Kindergarten offered, depending on location:
 - Half-day/every day learning
 - Full-day/alternate day learning
 - Full-day/every day learning

early learning



LEARNING

Children learn by **doing**.

Children learn by **interacting**.

Children learn **at their own rate**.



Looking Ahead...

Eligibility

If your child is...

- Age four or five by December 31, Kindergarten attendance is optional.
- Age six by September 1, full-time school attendance is required.

Registration

Parents must register at their home school. Find your home school using our online School Seeker at ap2.hwdsb.on.ca/seeker or call 905-527-5092, ext. 2391.

Full-day Kindergarten

HWDSB is proud to announce that Full-Day Kindergarten is available for four- and five-year-old students at select schools. See which schools currently offer Full-Day Kindergarten at www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

Special Needs

School board personnel partner with parents and community agencies to support the learning needs of all students so that they can have a positive and seamless transition to school. Depending on the needs of the child, specialized personnel and equipment will be identified to support the learning plan at your child's school.

First Rider Program

Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) provides First Rider orientation / safety training sessions for JK / SK students and their guardians annually. All eligible bus students in JK and SK will receive additional information from HWSTS, along with their eligibility letter in early summer. Please visit the First Rider website at www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca





As a parent, you are an important part of your child's education!

Young children come to school with an enormous capacity to learn. Important stages of learning and development occur between birth and six years of age in all areas of growth – social, emotional, physical, and intellectual.

Children develop knowledge and skills at varying rates and through various means.

Our teachers recognize the unique strengths, interests, and needs of children entering our program and adjust teaching methods and materials accordingly.

Help your child prepare for the Kindergarten experience:

- Be responsive and positive – listen to your child
- Talk, read, and sing to your child on a daily basis
- Encourage clear speech
- Encourage safe exploration and play
- Be selective in the TV shows you watch together
- Encourage independence in toileting and dressing
- Promote sharing and co-operation
- Expose your child to painting, crayons, and scissors
- Introduce your child to letters and numbers
- Visit your local library and family resource programs such as the Ontario Early Years Centre and Parenting and Family Literacy Centres



The Importance of Kindergarten

- Early learning experiences are crucial to the future well-being of children
- Early interactions affect the way connections are made in the brain
- A solid foundation for literacy and numeracy skills must be built
- Self-esteem is promoted
- Participation in developmentally appropriate activities builds skills

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Children Learn Through:

Inquiry

Children are naturally curious. They have an interest in exploring and investigating how things work and why things happen.

Real-Life Contexts

Children grasp ideas more easily and effectively when they connect their learning to their own lives and the world around them.

Exploration

Children explore their environment through learning-based play. Play is a vehicle for learning in the areas of problem solving, language acquisition, literacy, numeracy, and social skills.

Explicit Instruction

Teachers provide clear, direct, purposeful teaching and modeling of specific skills and strategies.



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Accomplishing
Observing
Exploring
Reading
Experimenting
Socializing
Listening
Writing
Selecting
Comparing
Talking
Discovering
Singing

There's a lot to learn in Kindergarten...

We read books.

We sing songs.

We write words and numbers.

We play together.

We make art.

We move and exercise.

We explore and discover.

We have fun!

Is your child "language ready" for school?

When your child is getting ready to start Junior Kindergarten this fall, help them get the best possible start in school. By age four, your child should:

- Follow simple directions with two or three steps (e.g.: Get your boots and hat and meet me at the front door)
- Pronounce words about the same way as others his/her age
- Be understood by people he/she doesn't know most of the time
- Speak in sentences that sound about the same as an adult's
- Use endings on words like dogs, jumped, or biking
- Play a pretend game and be able to describe it to you afterwards with enough detail for you to understand
- Be able to answer questions about a book you just read together

If your child is unable to do the things listed above, a speech-language pathologist should meet with your child.

In the Hamilton area, Early Words is a publicly funded organization that provides speech and language services to pre-school children. Please call Early Words at (905) 381-2828.

You must call this number to register your child **before August 31**, in order for your child to be eligible for services through his/her Junior Kindergarten year. There is no cost to parents.

Parents:

For more information about the Kindergarten Program's curriculum, registration, or other programs offered at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, visit www.hwdsb.on.ca

learn more:

- Watch HWDSB students on YouTube
- Follow us on Twitter @HWDSB
- Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, The Virtual Blackboard



Visit us at:

www.hwdsb.on.ca

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share it, recycle it.

... or go to www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten



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