

THE ABCs of KINDERGARTEN GUIDEBOOK

Please put this in a safe place so that you are able to refer to it throughout the year. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the learning team. We are happy to help!

A ~ Alphabet It is very important that your child learn the letters of the alphabet and the sounds represented by each letter. Daily practice is encouraged.



B ~ Bus During the summer, the HWDSB transportation department will send a letter the parent/guardian of each Kindergarten student who is eligible for busing. Students who ride the bus will be escorted on and off the bus before and after school. An adult must be waiting at the bus stop after school, for the bus driver to let the student off of the bus.



Balanced Day The students will have two breaks throughout the day for eating and outdoor play. Each break will be 40 minutes long.



Backpack We ask that your child bring a large backpack to school every day. It must fit their lunch, a pair of indoor shoes, and their “Important Bag.”

C ~ Closure School closures due to inclement weather will be announced by the local radio and T.V stations. Also, you can check the board website at www.hwdsb.on.ca

D ~ Drop Off When dropping off your child at school, please make sure there is a teacher on duty on the Kindergarten playground before you leave. Supervision begins 15 minutes before the start of each school day.

Dismissal Parents are asked to wait outside the Kindergarten doors until their child is dismissed by their teacher. Students are dismissed one at a time, to their parents/guardians. If there is someone new picking up your child, you must inform their teacher or the office first.

E ~ Early Words If you are concerned about your child’s speech, please contact the Early Words Centre at (905) 381-2828 before school begins in September.



F ~ Friendships Your child will have the opportunity to socialize with others in a variety of settings. Please encourage your child to share with their peers and use manners when speaking to others.

G ~ Gym Your child will be participating in weekly physical education classes. Please make sure your child has running shoes for gym days. They can leave a pair of indoor shoes in their cubby at school.



~ High-Frequency Words There are 25 high-frequency words that the students are expected to know by the end of SK. These are referred to as “Popcorn Words.” We focus on them constantly in class to help improve reading fluency. The words are: like, a I, he, and, in, that, of, is, it, to, can, the, was, big, no, me, said, go, my, and, yes, we, see, went.

I ~ Independence Children who are independent thrive in a Kindergarten program. We have a 3-Try Rule where a child is asked to try 3 times before asking for help. Please encourage your child’s independence at home by allowing him/her to do things on his/her own. Be aware that students should

be wearing kid-friendly clothing. If your child cannot tie their shoe laces independently, do not send them to school with laces.

We encourage your child to **independently use the washroom**, wash their hands, dress themselves (indoor and outdoor clothes) and put on/take off their shoes. Please note that educators are not permitted into the washrooms. While we can verbally coach your child from outside the bathroom doors, if your child has an accident that requires clean-up, you will be contacted by the school.

Interviews If at any time you would like to meet with your child's educators to discuss their progress or any concerns, please contact them and they will be happy to set up a meeting.

Important Bags At the beginning of the school year your child will be given an Important Bag with their name on it. Please return this bag every day with any notes, forms, money, etc., for your child's educators and check it each night for information that has been sent home.

J ~ Journals In the Kindergarten program journals are used on a regular basis as a tool to record various information. You may want to start a journal at home with your child to encourage their writing (e.g., have them write about a trip to the park, etc.)

K ~ Kid Writing As children get excited about writing, they will pass through several stages. These range from squiggles, to random strings of letters, to more purposeful letters and simple words. During this time, we encourage "Kid Writing." This is when your child slowly sounds out a word and writes down the sounds that they hear. Remember, your child will not always write all of the sounds and that is okay (e.g., ct instead of cat)



L ~ Late Being on time for school each day is important. If your child is late, you must stop in at the office to get an admittance slip. If you know that your child will be absent, please notify the school or send a note with your child the day before.

Library Each week your child will visit the school library to exchange a school book. In order to take out a new book your child must bring back their borrowed book. The library will require a replacement fee for any lost or damaged books.



Lunch Students are asked to bring a lunch with a few **healthy** snacks and drinks each day. We encourage reusable containers to help eliminate waste. All food must be NUT FREE.



M ~ Money When money is sent to school (e.g., for pizza, milk, class trips) we ask that you label it with your child's name and what it is for, and put it in the Important Bag.

N ~ Newsletter Every month you will receive a newsletter and/or calendar from your child's teacher. It will outline any upcoming events, and important reminders.



O ~ Office If you are entering the school at any time, you **must** report to the office first. For safety reasons, we need to be aware of who is entering the building. Thanks for your cooperation!

Outdoor Play Students will be having outdoor play time every day. Please make sure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather (e.g., snow pants, boots, hat, scarves, mittens, etc.) and that they can dress themselves independently.

P ~Play is Learning Play-based learning is an important component of the Kindergarten program. Play allows children to improve their oral communication skills, self-discover language, math and science concepts, develop personal and social skills and improve their confidence. It fosters creativity in completing tasks, solving problems and making decisions. Please be aware that play-based learning eliminates a lot of pencil and paper tasks being sent home.

Q ~ Quick Goodbyes **Quick goodbyes leave drier eyes!** Some children will cry when their parents leave them, but be assured that most children's tears disappears within minutes.

R ~Readiness Skills If you are wondering what you can do to help your child prepare for kindergarten, here are some simple skills they should have before starting school: holding a pencil correctly with a pinch grip, cutting with kid scissors, printing their name, singing the alphabet song, identifying some letters of the alphabet, recognizing numbers up to 5, counting to 10, holding and turning the pages of a book, identifying primary colours, and dressing independently.



Reporting Report cards are sent home to all students 3 times a year.

S ~School Bell Times School begins at 8:55am and ends at 3:15pm



Supplies There are a few items we ask your child to come to school with at the beginning of the school year: running shoes, a box of Kleenex, a backpack with a lunch bag, Ziploc bags (any size) and play-doh.

T ~Tidy Up The students will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves. They will be required to put away the toys they used, clean up spills, and put away their belongings. Please encourage a sense of responsibility at home.

U ~Underwear Please send an extra set of clothes for your child, in case of an accident or spill. We ask that you provide them with a clean pair of pants, underwear and socks in a bag, labelled with their name. This will remain at school.

V ~ Velcro We strongly encourage students to wear Velcro shoes. This helps them be more independent at school.

Volunteer Police Check In order to participate in school trips, a police check is required. If you are interested and need more information, please speak to your child's learning team.



W ~Weather Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each day.

X ~ Exciting Kindergarten is a very exciting time for children! We encourage you to ask your child questions about his/her day, so that you can share in the excitement

Z ~ ZZZs Children that are well rested when they get to school are attentive and ready to learn. If your child is not already on a consistent sleep schedule that includes an early bedtime, we encourage you to work with your child to develop one. There is no "nap time" in kindergarten.

