

HWDSB

Countdown to **Kindergarten**

Steps before your child's **first day of school**

**First Day
of School!**

Child & Family



Registration

Starts on the first Monday in February. Visit our website below to learn how to register.



Orientation

Family visits begin in May. Contact your HWDSB school in the spring for your date.



September Visit

School teams will email new Kindergarten families about a visit before the official first day.



Each year, school starts during the first full week of September. Welcome to Kindergarten!



**Scan the QR code or visit
hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/ to learn more.**

How to register for Kindergarten, which is a 2-year program:

1. Your child is eligible for Kindergarten in the calendar year they turn four or five. Your child must attend school if they are age six by September 1. Visit [hwdsb.on.ca/find/](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/) or call 905-527-5092 to find your home school.
2. Register online at [hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/) to create an account, enter details and add your child to our student information system. Additional registration options include email (complete and print the Student Registration Form) or paper application (picked up from schools upon request). If you have questions, contact your local HWDSB school.
3. Only parents or legal guardians can register their children for school. The following documents are required: Proof of age (child's birth certificate or passport); Proof of residency (identification that shows parent/guardian's current home address); Verification of date of arrival/immigration documents (if the child was not born in Canada).
4. At registration, please tell us if you have any concerns about your child starting school. We have many resources to support language development, behavior concerns and special needs in the classroom. Learn more about by visiting [hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/entry-to-school/](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/entry-to-school/)
5. Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) provides transportation for eligible HWDSB Kindergarten students. Eligible students receive a letter from HWSTS in early summer. Our First Rider program gives students a chance to ride the bus during the summer. Find details at www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/
6. Some schools offer fee-for-service before- and after-school child care programs. Visit [hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/childcare/](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/childcare/) to find locations and learn about financial help that might be available.
7. EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide free opportunities for children from birth to six years of age to participate in play and inquiry-based programs, and support parents and caregivers in their roles. Visit [hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/early-learning/](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/early-learning/) for more details.

Kindergarten is an exciting, enriching place where children spend 2 years learning to explore the world, solve problems and make friends. A teacher and early childhood educator combine as a caring team to help your child get the best start in school! Visit [hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/childcare/) to learn more.