

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



[hwdsb.info/kindergarten](https://www.hwdsb.info/kindergarten)

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!

## How to register for Kindergarten, which is a two 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.info/find](https://www.hwdsb.info/find) or call **905-527-5092** to find your home school.
2. Register online at [hwdsb.info/kindergarten](https://www.hwdsb.info/kindergarten) 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, behaviour concerns and special needs in the classroom. Learn more about by visiting [hwdsb.info/entrytoschool](https://www.hwdsb.info/entrytoschool)
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/](https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/)
6. Some schools offer fee-for-service before- and after-school childcare programs. Visit [hwdsb.info/childcare](https://www.hwdsb.info/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.info/earlylearning](https://www.hwdsb.info/earlylearning) for more details.

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