



TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

The transition to school is an important step, and every child has a place at school.

All families are encouraged to enroll their child in their local neighbourhood school. Registering early supports collaboration with the school and a positive transition.

This process also provides an opportunity to reflect on an important question:

Is the school ready to welcome my child?



How will the school support my child if...

- ...my child wanders off or leaves the classroom?
- ...my child is not academically ready?
- ...my child is in the process of toilet learning?
- ...my child communicates little or differently?
- ...my child moves around a lot or has a short attention span?



Don't worry if you feel that your child isn't ready for school. The school will do everything possible to keep them safe and encourage their independence. What's more, the other children are good role models who may inspire your child.

— Sonia (parent)

Safety & Well-Being

- Talk to the school about any concerns you have regarding your child's safety and well-being.
- Inform the school of any unsafe behaviours, whether past or present (e.g. wandering or running away).
- Be clear and specific when sharing your concerns (e.g. "I am concerned that my child will leave the classroom").
- Suggest strategies that could help to ensure safety, such as routines, visual cues, and closed doors.
- Work together to ensure everyone's safety.
- If necessary, develop or share a safety plan.
- Maintain open communication and ongoing collaboration.

School is a community
of relationships [...] and we have no regrets!
— Amanda (parent)

School Readiness

- Children do not need to know the alphabet or how to count before starting kindergarten.
- Kindergarten supports social and emotional development, allowing each child to learn at their own pace.
- Children arrive at school with a variety of experiences.
- The school has the resources to support all children.
- The school team can offer curriculum adaptations as needed.

Toileting

- Let the school know if your child is in the process of toilet learning and needs support.
- Find out about the school's practices and the supports available.
- If necessary, this can be included in your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Work with the school team to support this learning.
- Continue to provide support at home and at childcare when relevant.

Communication Skills

- The classroom provides ample opportunities for learning and modelling.
- Share how your child communicates (e.g., gestures, signs, pictures or a tablet.)
- You can develop communication strategies in collaboration with the school team.
- Share the strategies already used by the professionals supporting your child.
- Discuss with the school how they will meet your child's communication needs.

Attention Span

- It is normal for young children to have short attention spans.
- In kindergarten, learning mainly takes place through play.
- Share tools or strategies that help your child concentrate (e.g., fidgets or a Movin'sit cushion).
- The school team can support different needs, such as the need to move around, by offering breaks and adapted support (e.g., visual, auditory or kinesthetic aids).
- Share your child's interests with the school.