



Welcome to Kindergarten at the Algoma District School Board



Kindergarten Guide for Families

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ADSB Welcomes You and Your Child to the Kindergarten Years!



The Algoma District School Board is excited to welcome all children turning four or five to our full-day, two-year Kindergarten program! Kindergarten is an exciting new adventure, opening up a world of discovery and growth.

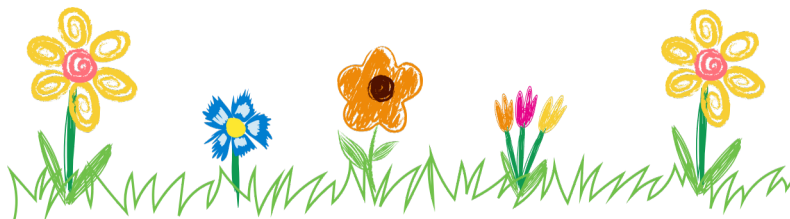
Kindergarten is more than just the start of school - it's a time to build confidence, creativity, and a love of learning. During these early years, every experience helps build a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning.

We believe every child is curious, capable, and full of potential. In our classrooms, learning happens through play, exploration, and hands-on experiences that make every day exciting. Our schools are warm, inclusive communities where every child feels welcome, valued, and ready to thrive.

**We know that starting school is a
big step for both children and families!
To help you feel ready, this booklet includes:**

- An overview of what to expect in Kindergarten
- Fun activities to support your child's learning at home
- Helpful tips for a smooth transition to school

We're excited to begin this journey with you and your child. Let's fill these early school years with joy, discovery, and unforgettable memories!



The Kindergarten Program

The Algoma District School Board follows the Ontario Ministry of Education's Kindergarten Program, which is built around four foundational areas of learning:

- **Belonging and Contributing** Building friendships, working together, and feeling part of a community.
- **Self-Regulation and Well-Being** Learning to understand feelings, make choices, and take care of ourselves.
- **Demonstrating Literacy and Math Behaviours** Building early reading, writing, and math skills in fun, meaningful ways.
- **Problem-Solving and Innovating** Encouraging curiosity, creativity, and trying new ideas.

Our classrooms are designed to spark imagination and discovery, with plenty of hands-on materials and outdoor play spaces that invite children to explore, create, and learn in a natural and exciting way!

The Kindergarten Team

In most Kindergarten classrooms, a team of educators guides your child's learning. This Educator Team includes an Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT) and an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) who work together to create a fun, engaging, and supportive environment. Play, hands-on activities, and meaningful interactions help spark curiosity, build confidence, and develop important early learning skills.

Learning is a partnership, and your involvement matters. The Educator Team collaborates with families, keeping you informed and providing ongoing feedback to support your child's growth every step of the way.



The Kindergarten Program

Kindergarten Communication of Learning (Report Cards)

To help families stay connected to their children's learning, the Kindergarten team shares updates on how your child is growing and learning throughout the year. These updates are called *Communication of Learning* and are shared three times, just like report cards for students in Grades 1 to 8.

- **Initial Observations (Fall):** A first glimpse into how your child is settling in and beginning to grow in Kindergarten.
- **Communication of Learning (Winter and Spring):** These reports give a fuller picture of your child's progress, highlighting their learning and next steps.

Open communication is important. If you have any questions or concerns, you're encouraged to reach out to the Kindergarten team at any time. Likewise, if the Kindergarten team has specific concerns, they will contact you directly to discuss ways to support your child's learning journey.

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Fun and Simple Activities to Help Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten



Make Storytime Special

Snuggle up with a book each day. Use funny voices, explore pictures, and talk about the story. Re-reading favourites builds comfort and confidence!

Let Books (and Words) Be Everywhere

Read whatever you have — books, flyers, labels, or signs. Let your child see you enjoy reading, too. If you need more books, check out your local library.

Be Creative with Drawing and Writing

Encourage your child to draw pictures, scribble, or practice writing letters. These early writing activities strengthen fine motor skills and spark creativity.



Offer Flexibility and Choice

Let your child engage in ways that work best for them. For example, they might enjoy listening to a story while moving or prefer drawing with big crayons instead of writing.



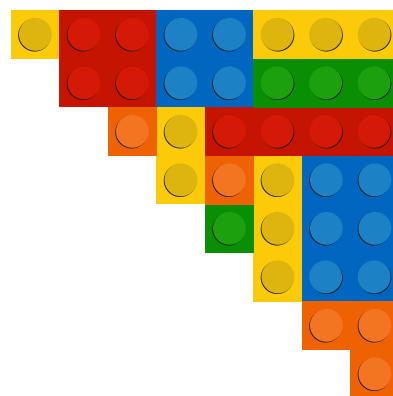
Sing, Rhyme, and Move Together

Sing your favourite songs, clap out rhymes, and dance! These joyful activities support language, rhythm, memory, and coordination.

Fun and Simple Activities to Help Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Count, Sort, and Play with Math

Count toys, sort laundry, or group buttons, coins, or blocks by colour. These simple activities build early math skills in a fun, natural way.



Cook Together and Talk Math

Measure, pour, and count ingredients while making a meal. Cooking turns everyday routines into real-life math adventures.



Go on a Shape and Number Hunt

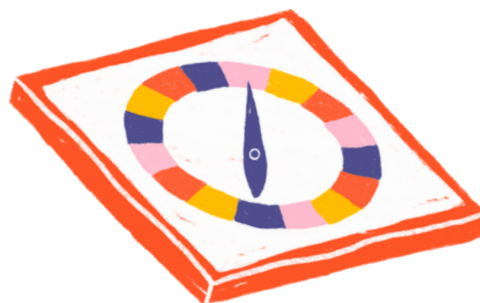
Take a walk and look for numbers on houses or shapes in signs and windows. This builds curiosity and helps with number and shape recognition.

Explore Nature Like Scientists

Look for leaves, worms, or rocks outdoors. Talk about what you see and ask questions — exploring the world builds early science and thinking skills.

Play Games and Solve Puzzles

Play simple board games or complete puzzles together. These activities support turn-taking, problem-solving, and social skills — plus they're fun!



Preparing Your Child for School

Starting school can bring a mix of emotions for both you and your child. The more prepared your child feels for this exciting new chapter, the easier their transition will be. Preparing for school can be a fun and rewarding experience for both of you.

Families play an important role in helping your child succeed at school.

Here are some simple activities you can do together to support their readiness and make the transition to school a positive one. By taking these easy steps, you'll help ease your child's transition and set them up for a successful school experience!

Getting to Know the School

Take a walk or drive to the school with your child to explore the surroundings and check out the playground.

Talk openly about school and plan a visit together before the first day.

Spending time at the school and playing on the playground will help your child get comfortable with the environment and feel more confident when school starts.



Preparing Your Child for School

Getting Ready for the School Day

Getting into a school routine can take a little time, so it's a good idea to ease into it. A couple of weeks before school starts, you might start shifting bedtime and mealtimes bit by bit to match the school-day schedule. Then, about a week before the first day, try doing a few "practice" mornings - waking up, getting dressed, and having breakfast around the same time they would on a school day. These gentle adjustments can make the transition feel a lot smoother - for both you and your child!



Building Independence Together

Please encourage your child to practise skills that help them become more independent, like using lunch containers, thermos lids, zippers, buttons, ties, and shoe fasteners. Make dressing and undressing fun by having them practise putting on and taking off jackets, backpacks, and shoes. You can even turn it into a game like a race to see who can put on their shoes first!

For a lunch practice, pack a meal similar to what they'll have at school and enjoy a picnic together. This gives your child the chance to practise opening their lunch box and getting to their food items on their own.



Getting Ready for the First Day

Things to Bring to School

Your child's school will provide additional details about specific items, but here are some general things to consider:



Clothing:

- Select clothing your child can easily put on, take off, and fasten.
- Send a pair of indoor shoes (preferably Velcro) to wear in the classroom.
- Pack weather-appropriate outdoor clothing.
- Send an extra set of clothes to be kept at school for spills or accidents.



Backpack:

- Provide a lightweight, easy-to-carry backpack large enough to hold lunch, snacks, library books, and notes.

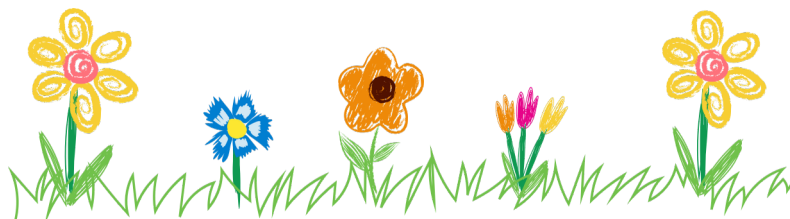
Lunch and Snacks:

- Use a lunch bag or box that your child can easily open.
- Pack nut-free, healthy foods that don't require heating (use a thermos for warm meals).
- Include small, easy-to-eat items for snack and lunch breaks.



Labelling:

- Label all of your child's belongings — like clothing, shoes, school bags, and lunch containers — with their first name or initials. You might want to place the label somewhere that's not too noticeable.



Getting Ready for the First Day

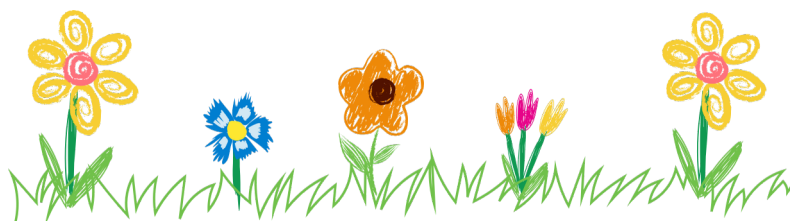
The first day of school is a big milestone, and your positive words can make a huge difference! Here are some tips to help your child feel excited and ready:

- **Stay calm and positive:** Children pick up on their parent's emotions, so staying calm and upbeat will help your child feel more confident. Show your excitement about this new adventure, and let your child know how proud you are of them. Your positive attitude will help ease any first-day nerves.



- **Talk about the fun things:** Focus on the exciting parts of starting school — making new friends, playing games, and discovering new things. Remind your child that school is a place for learning, fun, and growth.

- **Be on time:** Starting the day with a calm and steady routine sets a positive tone. Make sure to leave enough time to get to the bus stop or school without rushing. Being on time helps your child feel settled and ready for the day ahead.



How You Can Help the School

When families and schools stay connected and share responsibility, it lays the foundation for your child's success in school.

You can help the school by:

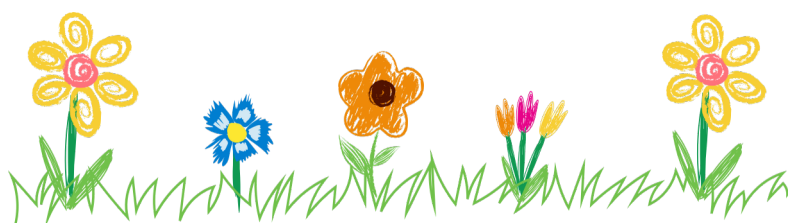
- Letting the school know in advance if your child will be absent.

- Keeping your child home if they're feeling unwell (like having a stomach ache, runny nose, fever, or sore throat).

- Making sure your child arrives at school on time each day.

- Providing written instructions if there are any changes to your child's usual routine (like if you'll be picking them up instead of them taking the bus or if they'll be going home with a friend).

- Checking your child's backpack daily for notes from the educators and returning any forms or important documents.



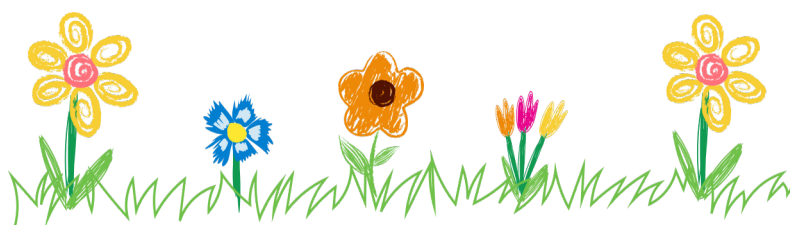
How You Can Help the School

Encouraging Your Child's Love of Learning

As your child's first teacher, you play a big part in helping them develop a love of learning. Here are some simple ways you can encourage their curiosity:

- **Talk** about school in a positive way, making it sound like a fun and exciting place to be.
- **Encourage** your child to try new things, whether it's a new hobby, activity, or skill.
- **Ask** your child about their day and give them a chance to share their experiences with you.
- **Praise** your child's efforts, big or small, to help build their confidence and motivation.
- **Display** your child's artwork or creations in a special place to celebrate their hard work and foster pride.
- **Be consistent** with attendance and punctuality to show your child that school is important.
- **Be patient** and understanding, allowing your child to grow at their own pace. Every child develops skills in their own time.

Creating a home environment that celebrates learning helps your child develop a lifelong love of discovery!

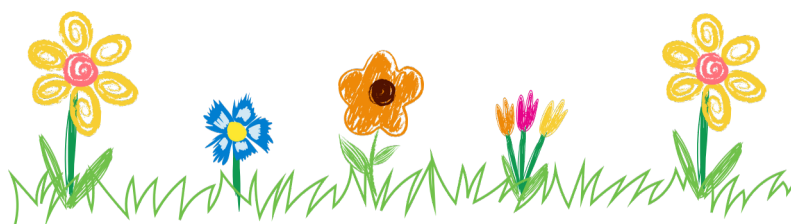


Positive Questions to Ask Your Child About Their Kindergarten Day

Asking your child about their day is a great way to show you care and help them feel excited about what they're learning. These questions can help them think about their day in a positive way and give them the chance to share what made them happy or proud.

Here are some questions to try:

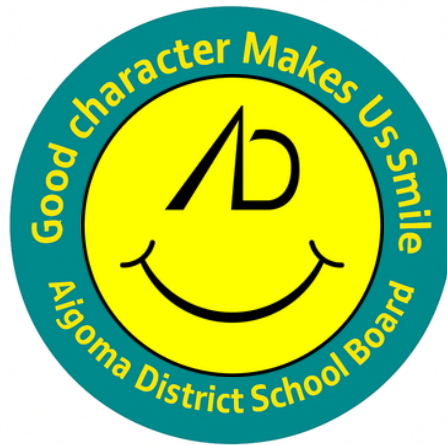
- What was the best part of your day today?
- Can you tell me something new you learned today?
- What story or book did you read in class today?
- What was something funny that happened today?
- Did you try something new today? What was it like?
- Who did you play with at school today?
- What did you do during outdoor playtime today?
- Was there a time today when you helped someone or shared something?



Good Character Makes Us Smile!

At the Algoma District School Board, our tagline *Confident Learners, Caring Citizens* guides everything we do—especially when it comes to building strong character in our youngest learners.

Kindergarten is the perfect time to learn how to treat others with care, fairness, and kindness, and to discover the big difference small actions can make.



Every day in our classrooms, students explore what it means to be a **good friend**, a good **helper**, and a good **community member**. These lessons help build happy classrooms today—and caring citizens tomorrow.

Our Character Attributes

These are the qualities we learn, practice, and celebrate throughout the year:

Cooperation – Working and playing together.

Citizenship – Helping our school and community.

Loyalty & Respect – Valuing others and showing we care.

Caring – Being kind and gentle.

Honesty & Integrity – Telling the truth and doing what's right.

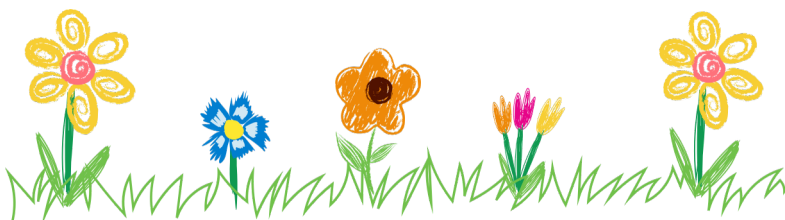
Fairness – Taking turns, sharing, and including others.

Courage – Trying new things and standing up for what's right.

Responsibility – Taking care of ourselves, our things, and our choices.

Perseverance – Trying again, even when it's tricky.

Leadership – Setting a positive example for others.



We hope this booklet has helped answer some of your questions about Kindergarten within the Algoma District School Board.

We encourage you to contact your child's school whenever you have questions or concerns.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

School Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name of Teacher: _____

Name of ECE: _____

Name of Principal: _____



Algoma District School Board
Education Centre
(705) 945-7111
www.adsb.on.ca