



Linsford Park Kindergarten Handbook



LINSFORD PARK KINDERGARTEN

Principal: Mrs. Ann Oppermann

Teacher: Mrs. Joline Huisman

School Secretaries: Mrs. Plican & Mrs. Hammer

Class time: 8:35-3:15

School Address: 4502 - 51 Street

School Phone: 986-8474

Basic Goals of Kindergarten

The kindergarten program is based on the philosophy, goals, and program dimensions outlined in the Early Childhood Services handbook prepared by the Department of Education. It is the goal of the kindergarten program to provide meaningful learning experiences to enhance development of the total child which would include social, spiritual, intellectual, emotional, creative and physical development. Each child will be encouraged to realize that they are special and will be loved unconditionally and thereby help to develop a positive self-concept and genuine love for learning. The program facilitates skills and concepts in preparation for Grade One.

Program Dimensions

Physical Development: gross motor or large muscle skills (running, jumping, climbing); perceptual motor skills (spatial, directional, temporal, and sensory awareness); fundamental movement abilities (coordination, balance and stability, locomotion, rhythm); awareness of body's physical needs (nutritious foods, rest, exercise, hygiene).

Social Development: encourage social interaction among children and adults; encourage social development of young children (large and small group activities that invite social -interaction); cooperate and share; respect people and property; demonstrate good manners; be honest.

Emotional Development: recognize, accept, and express feelings; cope with frustration; make decisions; develop initiative; develop awareness and respect for the feeling of others; gain confidence; continue developing a positive self-image.

Intellectual Development: develop positive feelings toward learning; allow time for children to select, plan, and organize their own learning activities; develop curiosity; follow directions; develop observation skills through use of the five senses; classify objects; compare objects; arrange things in order; measure; pair; develop concepts related to number, space, and time; develop questioning and problem solving skills; develop language skills; develop listening skills; develop awareness of the role of print, non-print, and electronic media as means of communicating and storing information; develop beginning computer awareness skills.

Creative Development: develop the ability to use past experience to generate new ideas or new combinations of ideas. It is basic to all creative self-expression and creative problem solving and is indicated by:

- a) using imagination and materials in novel and unusual ways
- b) giving more than one answer to a question
- c) finding more than one solution to a problem. Here, in a little more detail, are some intellectual skills that the children will start to learn.

Pre-reading Skills: learn about calendars, labels; browse in books; draw and name pictures; draw pictures and tell stories to go with the picture; understand left to right, top to bottom direction of print; print name and other meaningful words; learn to identify and print the alphabet, letter sounds and some sight words.

Number Skills: counting; match numeral to sets; identification and formation of numerals; greater than, less than, equal to; measuring weight, length, temperature; ordinal counting; introduction to the concepts of addition and subtraction.

Listening Skills (auditory discrimination): rhyming words; beginning and ending sounds; distinguish differences in sounds - volume, pitch, tempo; increase attention span; contribute to discussions; answer questions; follow instructions; beginning music skills and awareness.

Visual Discrimination: progress from left to right, top to bottom; perceive similarities and differences in pictures, colours, shapes, sizes, letters, and numbers; sorting and patterning

Speaking Skills: use correct grammar; speak in sentences; learn new vocabulary; speak in front of others comfortably; speak in a voice appropriate to the environment (i.e. classroom or playground).

Sensory Skills: describe likenesses and differences in smells, sounds, taste, temperature, and texture.

Science Skills: learn about plants, animals, weather, space; do simple science experiments; observe changes around us.

Literature (stories, poems, finger plays), **arts** and **crafts**, **music** (listening to, singing rhythm instruments), and **field trips** are also part of the kindergarten program.

Christian Program Spiritual Development: during Chapel times sing Bible songs; listen to and discuss Bible stories; in class encourage children to ask 'what would Jesus do' in given situations; to develop confidence when praying/talking to Jesus both quietly and out loud.

Themes

The over-all theme for Kindergarten is "Me and My World" as your child will explore different parts of the world around them and how they relate to it. Our daily activities planned around a theme include stories, songs, language arts and math learning activities, play activities art projects and creative movement activities. For example, some of the activities relating to the theme of Fall: fall stories, songs and videos, creative movement, fall leaves number book, dot to dot pictures, clay/play dough, fall toys, puzzles, digging for fall items in the rice table, fall colouring, etc. Our monthly newsletters provide an update of the themes and special events, skills and concepts we will cover that month.

Daily Activities

Arrival

The children will come in to get ready for the day through the east doors south of the main entrance doors. Students will gather outside in a line (2 meters apart) prior to entry into the school each morning. A supervisor (myself or our EA) will be bringing in the children each morning to the boot room, one child at a time. The children will be taking off their outside shoes/boots and then be going to the classroom to finish getting ready for the day. Students who arrive early, could enter early in order to lesson congestion. Please do not arrive prior to 8:25 as the class will not be open prior to that time. Parents will not be allowed into the school. Use of hand sanitizer will occur upon entrance to the classroom.

Opening Activities

Opening activities include singing "O Canada" (once Covid19 restrictions allow), morning announcements, attendance, review of job chart, and smart board calendar activities.

Gym

During this time, the children will experience a variety of activities focused on physical development (i.e. gross motor skills) and social development (i.e. sportsmanship). Gym time also provides the children an opportunity to move their bodies to help get their brains for learning. This may include activities outside, in our gym, or in our class using a online resources (i.e. GoNoodle)

Snack

Approximately mid-morning the children will be having a snack time. We do not usually have a scheduled snack time set aside in the afternoon. In keeping with our school healthy living initiatives, **PLEASE send nutritious snacks only like: veggies, fruit, yoghurt, cheese/meat pcs, crackers, etc.** Please **DO NOT** send food high in sugar like: candy, chips, pop, sugary food or other junk food.

Learning Centers

Daily the children will complete various table activities related to the theme that we are studying at the time, usually 2 or 3 throughout the day. These will have a language, math, science or art related focus. Each child will spend time with myself or other adult in the classroom.

Activity Centers

In addition to activities relating to a specific theme, children will have time to play with different activity centers such as building blocks, puzzles, painting. While keeping in mind the safety guidelines for Covid19 restrictions, these centers will be set up to allow children opportunity. These activities are designed to provide children with an opportunity to develop:

- social skills and problem-solving skills
- oral language and vocabulary development
- independence, self-confidence and competence
- creativity and imagination
- opportunities to expand and strengthen skills and concepts both physical and academic

Lunch Time

Lunch break is from 11:35-11:50 p.m. Typically the Kindergartners bring a lunch to school to be eaten at this time. However, if you wish you could arrange for your child to go home for lunch, please inform me accordingly. The children are supervised in the class while they are eating. In the past our school offered a Milk Program and a monthly Popcorn Program. Once Covid19 restrictions allow we hope to make these available to purchase on your parent portal.

Recess

The kindergartners will have their recess time on the playground from 11:55 until 12:20 with the rest of the school. The children are supervised by school staff during this time. All children are expected to go outside at lunch recess. Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather (i.e. coats or sweaters for cool days; winter coat and snow pants, mittens and boots in winter).

Library

Once a week the children will go to our library where the children will be able to check out two books to take home for a week. These books are to be returned the following week before new books can be checked out. Once Covid19 restrictions allow, our librarian will give them a variety of experiences with books. The kindergartners will learn proper library etiquette as well as how to care for books. The librarian will also read them a story often seasonal or theme-related.

Small Group Activities

During our small group time, the children are divided into small groups to reinforce and/or learn new math and language concepts. This gives the teaching team opportunities to work with the students in a more personal setting in order to address specific needs.

Animated Alphabet

Our kindergarten literacy program is called **Animated Alphabet**. The program promotes a fun and active approach to learning letters and letter sounds. The letters and sounds are presented through a story or a skit. Letters are taught with an accompanying action to help them remember the letter sound. The Animated Alphabet program begins in early November to allow time for the children strengthen their fine motor skills for the printing. As we learn more letters, the children will begin to start blending sounds together into simple words. Each child will bring home an Animated Alphabet crown as well as 2 homework pages weekly to complete.

Closing Activities

At the end of the day, one of classroom staff will take the bus children to meet their specific bus. The children who do not ride a bus home, are released at the school entrance door to parents once they bus children have left. If you have to pick up your child early, (i.e. doctor's appointments, etc.) please inform us at the beginning of the day so that we will make every effort to have your child ready to go. If your child is a bus student and **WILL NOT** be riding the bus on any specific day please **NOTIFY US BY WRITTEN NOTE OR EMAIL OR PHONE CALL TO THE OFFICE**; otherwise your child will be brought to their bus at the normal time. If your child is going home with someone else please **NOTIFY US BY WRITTEN NOTE OR EMAIL OR PHONE CALL TO THE OFFICE**.

Special Activities

Due to COVID19 restrictions, we are not currently able to have **Paddington Bear and Surprise Bag** activities. Hopefully later in the year we can reinstate these activities.

Paddington Bear's Visit Journal

Throughout the year each child will be able to take home our traveling bear, Paddington. Each child will have an opportunity to share what Paddington Bear did with them on his visit to the child's home by making an entry in Paddington Bear's Travel Journal. Instructions will be sent along with Paddington in his bag. The goal of this program is for the children to help children associate print with the spoken word that they have dictated.

Surprise Bag

Throughout the year each child will be able to take home the Surprise bag several times. The goal is to develop listening skills and question and answer skills as well provide opportunities to develop descriptive vocabulary and curiosity about unfamiliar objects. At home, children will place an object inside the bag to match the first clue listed on the clue sheet. We encourage the children to find objects other than just toys. With parental assistance three other clues can be recorded about the object on the form provided. I help the children read the clues to the class and the children get to guess. The item will be sent home at the end of the day and another child will be given the surprise bag.

Star Student

Each week starting in mid-October a child will be chosen to be our weekly Star Student. Each child will take part in an interview during which we will be asking them about themselves (i.e. their families and their favourite things). They will also have an opportunity to have a special time with our Principal, Mrs. Oppermann. Prior to your child's special week, they will bring home instructions of how to make a project that can be shared digitally about themselves and their family.

Buddy Program

Once Covid19 restrictions allow school meetings, kindergartners will be paired up with students in the Grade 6 class. The children meet with their buddy for a special activity several times throughout the year. We have found this to be a very rewarding experience for both the Kindergarten and Grade 6 students as it bridges the gap between the oldest and youngest students in the school.

Christian Program

Once Covid19 restrictions allow school meetings, Chapel program will begin again. Children registered in our Christian program will be attending scheduled chapel times throughout the year on Tuesday afternoons during the last period of the day. They will also complete various learning centers modified to fit with Christianity (i.e. I Am Special books include Bible verses, Christian theme during Christmas).

Home Reading Programs

We will have two home reading programs that the children will be participating in throughout the year. The goal of the following programs is to promote literacy in the home.

"I'm A Bookworm" Program - This program is designed to provide your children opportunity to gain exposure to books by listening to stories that are read aloud at home. The books used for this program can be from the public and/or school libraries as well as your own home collection. Recording sheets will be sent home to list the books your child has experienced. These lists can be returned to school to redeem for small prizes from our treasure box as well as an opportunity to help our classroom bookworm grow.

Online Reading - This program is designed to provide your children opportunity to develop emergent reading skills through exposure to leveled readers. This program will begin in January since the children will have gained some early reading strategies from our Animated Alphabet program and classroom instruction. Books will be available through an online reading service (i.e. Epic books) yet to be determined.

Assessments/Report Cards/Student-led Conferences

Informal assessment of each student is completed throughout the school year using observations and anecdotal records. Each child in our district is also assessed using the EYE (Early Years Evaluation) in late September - early October. The results of this assessment will be made known to you by early November. In preparation for sending home report cards in January and June, individual assessment of each child's progress is completed.

Student-led conferences, held in January, take the place of formal parent/teacher interviews. As the name suggests, each student will lead their parents through a variety of activities so that they can see firsthand their child's progress in the kindergarten program. Formal interviews may be set at parent or teacher request.

Kindergarten Field Trips

Once Covid19 restrictions allow we will be able to go on a few field trips again. It is District wide policy that a field trip permission form be filled out each time we leave the school grounds. **These forms will only be available online when the field trips happen. All field trip permission forms MUST be completed online in order for your child to accompany us on the field trip.** On occasion, we may also participate in a school wide field trip, which may require an extra fee not paid by the Kindergarten fees. We encourage parent involvement with our field trips; however, the number of parents that can accompany us on our field trips depends on the type of field trip and varies according to parent/child ratios permitted by the organization.

Kindergarten Fees

Linsford Park Kindergarten enhanced fees are **\$100**. These fees are used to fund your child's participation and bussing for virtual and out of school field trips throughout the year as well as to purchase school supplies and materials (i.e. writing & colouring tools, scissors, glue, paint, etc.) used by your child throughout the year.

Kindergarten memory books are prepared for each child at a cost of **\$15** fee per student. This is an optional purchase. The memory book is filled with photos of your child throughout the year highlighting special occasions and field trips and other memorable events as well as various special projects they will have worked on throughout the year. The book is presented to your child at our year-end celebration. Memory books will be created **ONLY** for the children who have returned a signed the form that will be sent out on the staggered entry days.

Kindergarten fees and memory book fees are to be paid **ONLINE** and are due by **September 30**.

Classroom Information

Each month a newsletter is sent out to inform you of our monthly themes, special activities (i.e. field trips, party lunch time, etc.). These will be sent via email. Updates and reminders about upcoming events will also be sent via email, so **please remember to check your email regularly**. A Linsford Park Kindergarten web site is also being developed and will be ready by the Fall.

Supplies

1. Please equip your child with a large backpack (large enough to hold a binder) to bring to school each day.
2. Please equip your child with a pair of non-marking shoes to wear inside the classroom. These shoes will remain in the classroom.
3. Play clothes are the most suitable for the often-messy kindergarten activities.
4. Please keep an extra set of clothes in their backpack.

Reminders

1. Attendance is taken at the start of each class, 8:35 a.m. All students (grades K-6) are required to check in at the office if they come to school after that time.
2. Please phone the school if your child will be absent from school. If your child is absent at the start of class and you have not called the office, you will be phoned by the school's automated system to confirm your child's whereabouts. ****This service is to help protect your child****
3. **LABEL ALL PERSONAL ITEMS** that your child brings to school (i.e. coats, shoes, boots, snow pants, lunch containers, backpacks, etc.). This is especially important to help ensure that we do not have items mixed up between children and are able to ensure the health and safety protocols in place. During the winter as the children often have the same kind of winter gear and it is quite difficult to keep them separate if not labeled.
4. Encourage your child to gain independence and praise their efforts.
5. Children **WILL NOT** be allowed to go home with someone else's parent unless **PRIOR PERMISSION** has been given to me from the parents **BY WRITTEN NOTE, EMAIL OR PHONE CALL TO THE OFFICE.**
6. Bus students will be escorted to the appropriate bus at the end of the day unless **PRIOR NOTICE** has been given to me from the parent(s) **BY WRITTEN NOTE, EMAIL** (prior to 12:30) **OR PHONE CALL TO THE OFFICE** (before 2:30).
7. Play guns, electronic toys from home **ARE NOT PERMITTED** at school. To ensure the health and safety protocols, children are encouraged to leave **ALL** toys at home. If toys are being sent for use on the bus ride, they are to remain in the child's backpack at school.

I am looking forward to working with you and your children this year. If, at any time, you have a question or concern, please feel free to discuss it with me.

Mrs. Joline Huisman