



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN™

Learning Through Play



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You are your child's first and most important teacher. Every day moments—like talking, singing, reading, and playing—help your child learn and grow in amazing ways. In this issue, you'll find simple and fun ideas to try at home. You don't need fancy toys or special materials—just time together, curiosity, and care.

As you talk, play, and create with your child, you are helping them build skills for school and life:

- Talking and Singing build connection, memory, rhythm, and belonging
- Creating builds problem-solving, imagination, movement, and early math
- Reading builds vocabulary, print awareness, and a love of learning
- Playing builds confidence, cooperation, curiosity, and decision-making

Let's keep discovering and growing—side by side.

The WTK Team

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**You are
your child's
first and best
teacher!**

Follow your child's lead

**Use your home
language**

**Celebrate
effort and
small steps**

**Play and learn
together, every day**

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RHYMING FUN! 🎵

Rhyming helps your child hear the music in language - and it's a great way to build early reading skills! You don't need books or paper to get started. You can rhyme anywhere: in the car, at the store, or while getting ready for bed.

Try This: Rhyme Time Game

- Say a word your child knows (like cat).
- Ask: "Can you think of a word that rhymes with cat?" (They might say hat, bat, or even splat!).
- Take turns going back and forth until you run out of rhymes—then start again with a new word!

Make It Even More Fun:

Sing together! Many of the **Welcome to Kindergarten** songs use rhyming words. Check out the WTK music at <https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/ten-fun-interactive-songs/>





MATH AND LITERACY ALL AROUND US

Learning doesn't just happen at a desk—it's all around us! You can help your child notice **letters and numbers** wherever you go, and build important **math skills** by counting together. No special tools needed—just your voice and a bit of curiosity!

Try These Easy Ideas Together:

Count What You See

- Count stairs, socks, buttons, blue cars, or snacks.
- Count while walking ("1, 2, 3...") or cooking ("Let's pour 2 cups of water").
- Use words like *more*, *less*, *taller*, *shorter* as you build with blocks or cook together.

Find Letters and Numbers Around You

- Look for letters and numbers on signs, houses, buses, and store windows.
- Point out letters in your child's name or numbers that are familiar (like your house number).

Create with Nature

- Use sticks, leaves, rocks, or petals to shape letters and numbers.
- Try making your child's name or simple words together.
- Take pictures of what you find or create and talk about them later.

Every step, shape, and sound is a chance to learn together. You're building strong math and literacy skills—just by playing and noticing the world!





LET'S LEARN OUTSIDE!

Nature is full of things to see, hear, touch, and talk about. Going for a walk, playing in the yard, or visiting a park can help your child build important skills for school and life.

TRY THIS: OUTDOOR EXPLORER GAME

Go on a short walk and turn it into a game:

- Look for things in different colours (“Can you find something red?”).
- Count what you see (“How many birds can we find?”).
- Use your senses (“What do you hear? What do you smell?”).
- Talk about what’s the same and what’s different (leaves, rocks, trees).

Make It Even More Fun:

Collect a few small treasures like leaves, pinecones, or pebbles to sort by size, shape, or colour when you get home.

Use sticks or stones to make a pattern or picture on the ground.

Take photos or draw what you see and talk about it together.



CREATE A COLLAGE!

Making a collage is a fun and easy way for your child to be creative and express themselves. You don't need special supplies—just gather things you already have at home or find outside!

Try This: Make Your Own Collage

- Tear or cut paper from old magazines, newspapers, flyers, or food boxes.
- Glue the pieces onto a larger paper (like the back of an old calendar or cereal box).
- Let your child decide where to put each piece—there's no wrong way to do it!

Go Outside for Inspiration:

Collect small items like leaves, flower petals, grass, or twigs. Use them to make a **nature collage**—arrange the pieces into shapes, patterns, or pictures.

Why Collage is Great for Learning

Builds imagination and personal expression

Supports fine motor skills (like cutting and gluing)

Helps children make choices and solve problems

Encourages creativity with simple, low-cost materials





LITTLE HANDS, BIG MOVES!

Fine motor skills help children do important things like write, button clothes, and open containers. These skills grow when children use the small muscles in their hands and fingers during play.

Try This: Play with Fingers and Hands

- **Scoop and Pour:** Use cups, spoons, or containers to scoop and pour rice, water, beans, or sand.
- **Pick it Up:** Use fingers or tongs to sort small items like buttons, bottle caps, or pebbles by size or colour.
- **Tear and Stick:** Tear paper into small pieces and glue them onto another paper to make a picture.
- **String It Together:** Thread beads, pasta, or cut-up straws onto string or shoelaces.

Make It Even More Fun:

- Let your child use paint, crayons, or chalk to draw big and small shapes.
- Turn chores into games—let them help sort laundry, open food packages, or wash vegetables.
- Do puzzles together or play with building blocks.



SHADOW PLAY: EXPLORE LIGHT AND SHAPES

Shadows are a fun way to explore how light works—and they’re easy to play with using just sunlight or a flashlight. Your child will learn by watching, moving, and creating!

Try This: Shadow Explorers

Go Outside on a Sunny Day

- Ask: “What do we need to make a shadow?” (Answer: a light, an object, and a surface).
- Let your child make shadows with their body, toys, or hands.
- Move and notice how the shadows stretch, shrink, or disappear!

Play Indoors with a Flashlight

- Shine the light on a toy and move it closer or farther—how does the shadow change?
- Try holding the object still and moving the light—what happens now?
- Make Shadow Art.
- Outside, trace your child’s shadow with chalk. Try tracing hands, toys, or even your whole body!
- Add silly faces or draw clothes and accessories.
- Indoors, tape paper to a wall and trace the shadow of small toys using a flashlight.



MORE IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter.

You are receiving this newsletter because your child's school participates in the **Welcome to Kindergarten™** program.

You are your child's first and best teacher, so have fun talking, reading, creating and playing every day!

For more ideas, check out our future newsletters or our resource page at

<https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/resources/>



ABOUT WTK

Welcome to Kindergarten™ (WTK) supports new Kindergarten children and families, in warmly welcoming them to school. WTK offers high quality early learning materials and family support. All WTK activities and resources are based on current research and effective practice in early learning, transition to school, family engagement and community involvement.



Bienvenue à la maternelle
EDUCO ENTREPÔT CANADA



Welcome to Kindergarten
CANADIAN EDUCATION WAREHOUSE