



# WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN™

*Learning Through Play*



## WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN™

Dear Kindergarten Family,

Welcome to Issue 4 of **Learning Through Play!**

We hope you and your family were able to join a **Welcome to Kindergarten™** orientation at your school.

In this issue, you'll find simple and fun ways to use items from your WTK kit at home. As summer begins, we encourage you to keep talking, reading, creating, and playing with your child. These everyday moments help build strong skills —and strong connections, too.

With care,

The WTK Team

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

**Follow your child's lead as you play and explore together**

**Talk and read with your child in your first language**

**Support sharing and taking turns**

**Celebrate every step of learning and growing**

### WHAT'S INSIDE

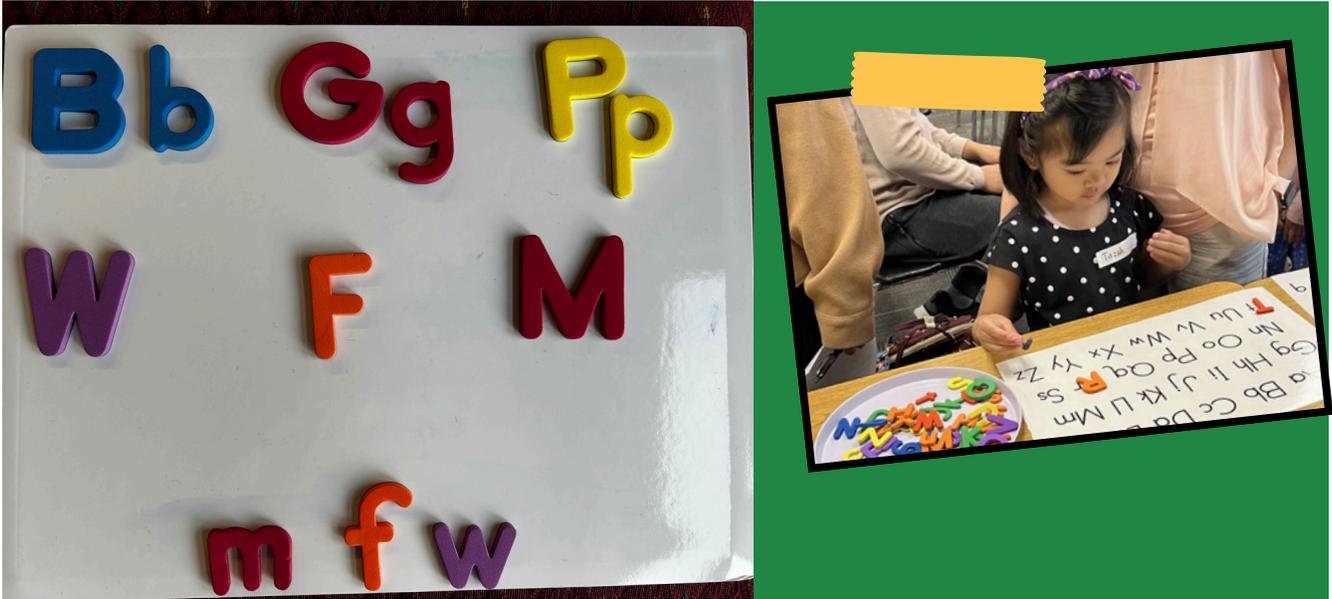
**Letter Match and Play**

**Playful Games for Growing Minds**

**Cutting Lines and Shapes**

**Explore Feelings Through Movement**

**Big Moves, Strong Bodies!**



## LETTER MATCH AND PLAY

### Fun with Magnetic Letters

Playing with letters helps children get ready to read and write. Magnetic letters from your WTK kit are a great way to learn letter names, sounds, and how uppercase and lowercase letters go together.

#### Try This: Letter Match Game

- Spread out the uppercase letters on one side of the fridge or a tray.
- Hand your child a lowercase letter and ask, “Can you find its match?”
- Say the letter’s name and sound together: “This is B. It says /b/ like ball.”

Take turns matching all the letters. You can even sing the ABCs as you go!

### Make It Even More Fun:

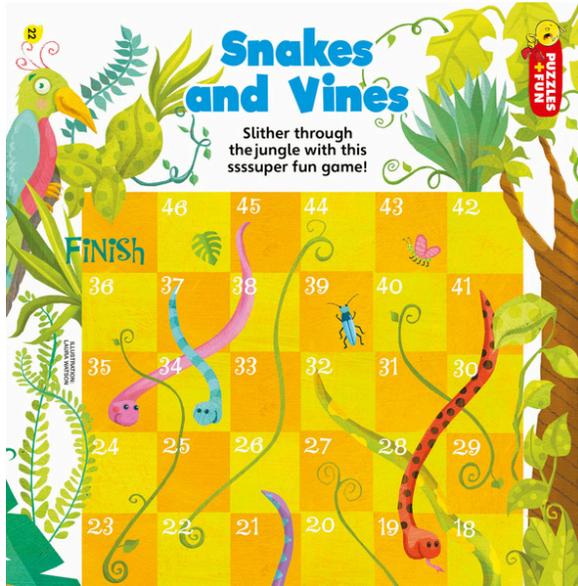
Build your child’s name using the letters—start with the first letter in **uppercase** and the rest in **lowercase**.

Play “Find the Sound”—say a sound (like /m/) and ask your child to find the letter that makes that sound (e.g., /m/ like mom).

Try drawing pictures or finding household items that start with the letters you’re working with.

**Tip:** Use your home language to talk about letters and sounds—bilingual learning supports strong language skills in both languages!

Magnetic letters turn everyday moments into reading fun—on the fridge, a tray, or even a baking sheet!



## PLAYFUL GAMES FOR GROWING MINDS

### Have Fun with Math Through Games and Play

Board games are a fun way to spend time together—and they also help children build important math skills like counting, recognizing numbers, and solving problems. You can use games from your **Chirp** magazine (like *Snakes and Vines*) or make your own!

#### Try This: Play and Learn with Math

**Sidewalk Games** – Use chalk outside to draw shapes, numbers, or a number line. Hop, count, or throw a rock and see where it lands!

**Number Bingo** – Make a simple bingo card with numbers. Use buttons, coins, or small stones as markers. Call out a number and help your child find and cover it.

**Dice Games** – Take turns rolling the dice from your WTK bag! Roll and count, or add the numbers together. You can even play “Who can roll a bigger number?”

**Math is everywhere—and every game is a chance to learn and laugh together!**

Why math games help children:

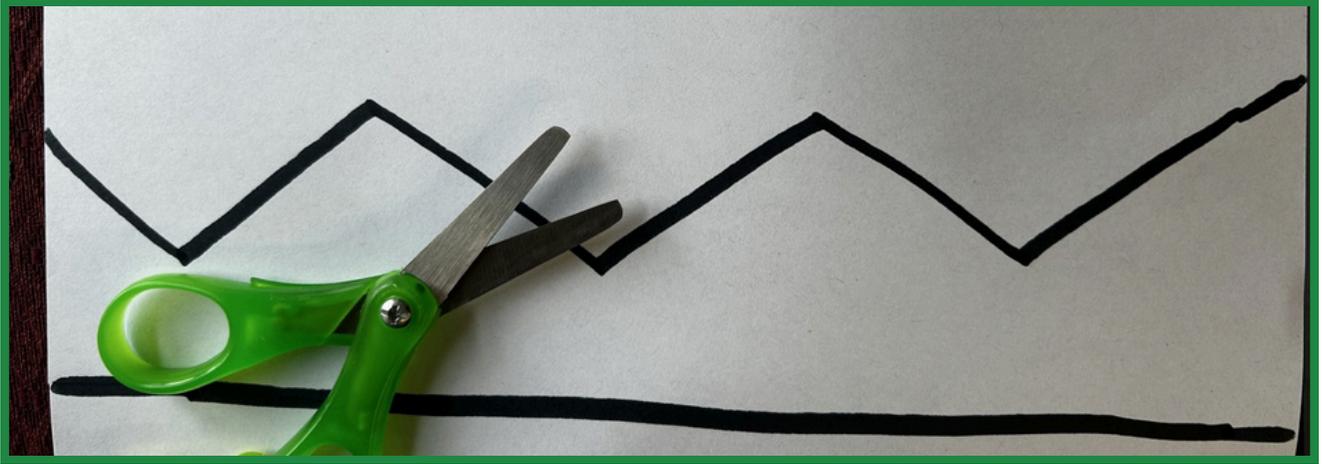
Build counting and number recognition

Practice turn-taking and decision-making

Develop early problem-solving skills

Learn in a joyful and relaxed way





## CUTTING LINES AND SHAPES

### Build Scissor Skills Through Simple Art

Cutting with scissors is a fun way for children to build strong hands and careful coordination. It also helps them focus, follow lines, and feel proud of their growing skills.

### Try This: Scissor Line Art

- Draw wavy, zig-zag, curvy, or straight lines on strips of paper.
- Invite your child to cut along the lines—they can go slow and try their best!
- Once they've cut a few, use the pieces to make something new—like a crown, bracelet, road, or snake.
- Encourage imagination: “What do you think this could be?”

### Make It Even More Fun:

Let your child decorate the strips *before or after* cutting.

Add dots, faces, or patterns!

Turn long strips into roads for toy cars.

Use curved pieces to make a silly mustache or glasses to wear.

**Just a few minutes of cutting each day supports big learning—and lots of fun!**

Why cutting with scissors helps children:

Strengthen finger and hand muscles

Build control and patience

Follow lines and directions



## EXPLORE FEELINGS THROUGH MOVEMENT

### Connect with Nature, Emotions, and Imagination

Being outdoors helps children feel calm, curious, and connected. Nature is full of movement—watching and copying these movements is a fun way to explore how our bodies and feelings are linked.

#### Try This: Move Like Nature!

While you're outside, ask your child:

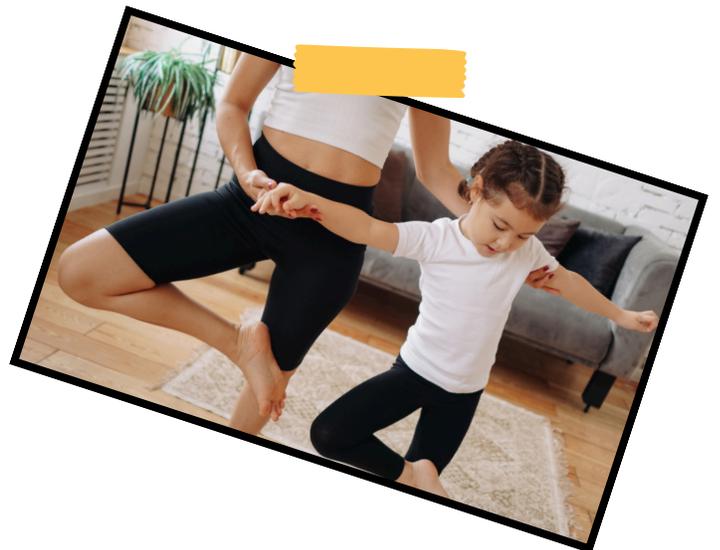
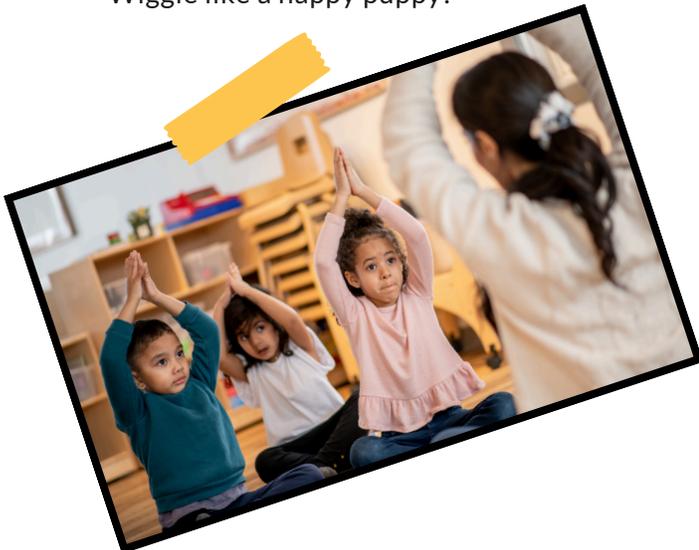
- “How does a butterfly move?”
- “How does a frog jump?”
- “What do leaves do in the wind?”

Let your child move their body like what they see—slow, fast, quiet, wiggly, still. Talk about how each movement feels in their body.

#### Try This with Your WTK Kit:

Use the Pocket Dice and Animal Action Cards to inspire movement. Can you...

- Slink like a cougar?
- Swoop like a swallow?
- Stand tall and still like a tree?
- Sway like leaves in the breeze?
- Wiggle like a happy puppy?





## EXPLORE FEELINGS THROUGH MOVEMENT

### More Ways to Move and Feel:

**Tree Pose** – Stand on one leg and rest the other foot on your inner thigh. Stretch your arms like branches. How does it feel to balance?

**Frog Jump** – Squat low, arms between your knees. Touch the ground, then jump!

**Stretch Like a Puppy** – Start on your hands and knees, then lift your hips into the air and stretch. Take a deep breath.

**Tip:** After moving, check in: “How do you feel now?” Movement can be a powerful way to explore and care for big feelings.

Let nature lead the way—every breeze, hop, and wiggle is a chance to learn and grow.





## BIG MOVES, STRONG BODIES!

### Build Gross Motor Skills Through Play

Children need to move their whole bodies every day! Running, jumping, climbing, and stretching help build strength, balance, and coordination. These big movements also support focus, confidence, and well-being.

### Try This: Movement Challenge Course

Use what you have at home—indoors or outside! Set up a simple course and have fun moving together.

**Walk a Line** – Use tape or a stick to make a line on the ground.

Can you and your child walk across it like a tightrope?

**Jump Forward** – Lay down pillows or towels. Try hopping from one to the next like a frog or kangaroo!

**Spin and Freeze** – Spin in a circle, then freeze like a statue.

Count to 5 together before moving again.

**Carry and Stack** – Carry soft items (like socks or blocks) across the room and stack them up. Can you balance these while walking?

### Make It Even More Fun:

- Use a timer to turn it into a race—or go slow and steady!
- Add animal moves: crawl like a bear, gallop like a horse, flap like a bird.

Invite your child to help design the course.

Let their imagination lead!

Why gross motor play helps children:

Strengthen big muscles

Improve coordination and balance

Practice listening and following directions

Use energy in positive, playful ways



## 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!  Welcome to Kindergarten!  
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