



# Kindergarten Registration Information for School Communities of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board 2011-2012 School Year



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



# Welcome to Kindergarten



The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's kindergarten program provides children with organized educational activities appropriate for young learners, taking into account their physical, intellectual, social and emotional needs.



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
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# Key Dates – Registration Week



**Educating for Success — Inspiring Learning and Building Citizenship**  
The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board welcomes all students by providing a wide range of programs, extra-curricular activities, and support services that inspire lifelong learning and individual success.



## Kindergarten Registration

Runs from January 31 to February 4, 2011



**Registration is easy:**  
A) Locate your school using the School Locator on our website.  
B) Bring your child's proof of age, Ontario health card, and immunization record.  
C) Visit the school to register.

Our school staff is always there to help you. Drop by your school or visit our website to find more details at [www.ocdsb.ca](http://www.ocdsb.ca) or call 613-721-1820.



**Educating for Success — Inspiring Learning and Building Citizenship**  
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## Kindergarten Registration Ongoing



**Registration is easy:**  
A) Locate your school using the School Locator on our website.  
B) Bring your child's proof of age, Ontario health card, and immunization record.  
C) Visit the school to register.

Our school staff is always there to help you. Drop by your school or visit our website to find more details at [www.ocdsb.ca](http://www.ocdsb.ca) or call 613-721-1820.



## Full Day Kindergarten

Additional Schools added for 2011

Full-Day Learning for four and five-year-olds

Classes led by a teacher and registered early childhood educator working together

Before and after-school programs for a fee

For a list of the 29 public schools offering this Full Day Kindergarten Program in 2011, visit [www.ocdsb.ca](http://www.ocdsb.ca) or call 613-721-1820. Our staff is always available to help you.



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# Kindergarten - Key Information

## Assist Your Child's Adjustment to School

Children who have watched older siblings and playmates begin school are likely to greet this new experience with excitement and joy. However, it is perfectly normal for children to feel uncertain when attending school for the first time. Here are some ways you can help prepare your child for kindergarten.

Read to your child, preferably daily. Select a variety of books of different lengths and different subjects. Relate the pictures to the story. This enhances language development and stimulates children's curiosity and imagination.

Talk with your child about daily activities – what he/she is doing, what you are doing. Strong oral communication skills will become a solid foundation for later academic achievement.

Encourage other adults in your child's life to emphasize the positive aspects of school: new friends, a caring teacher, and opportunities to learn, grow, and have fun. Find out the teacher's name and use it when discussing school activities.

Recognize it is sometimes just as difficult for you to face the separation from your child as it is for your child to face separation from you. Take comfort from understanding that these feelings are normal and they will pass as you and your child grow accustomed to a new routine.

Discover the route your child will travel to and from school and obtain information on walking distances. Several dress rehearsals will build your child's confidence and help establish safety conscious routines. Make sure the child walking to school is accompanied by an adult. Children on buses are met on arrival at, and depart from, school by the teacher or school supervisor. Children must be met by an adult when they are dropped off following their day at school. Visit the school. Use the playground and apparatus.

Develop opportunities for your child's exposure to music, rhythm and rhyming activities which help the development of reading skills.

Accustom your child to consistent routines such as getting up at a certain time, getting dressed, and so forth.

Help your child to develop fine motor skills. Fine motor skills are those skills involving the small muscles of the body and include such activities as drawing, cutting and gluing, as well as handling Playdough, building towers of blocks, stringing large beads on a string, catching a beanbag or large ball.

Discuss personal safety, buses, and strangers. Be sure children know their name, address, and telephone number.

Review the calendar with your child. Circle the day on which your child starts school. You may also wish to mark gym and library days, class trips, birthdays, and special occasions.

Label all your child's belongings in an inconspicuous place: indoor and outdoor clothing, shoes, boots, snack container, drink container, and backpack.

Prepare your child for successful experiences. Provide opportunities at home with situations that challenge your child to manage alone when bathing, dressing, tidying, and eating. Such independence helps children feel good about themselves. It helps them realize they can solve their own problems and be supported while doing so.

Find the time and the patience to let your child work through these challenges:

- choosing clothes to wear
- putting both arms into a jacket without assistance
- zipping a coat independently
- putting shoes on the correct feet
- fastening shoes and boots
- turning on water so it runs slowly
- pouring sand or liquids into containers
- soaking up liquids with a sponge
- using only a little glue
- cutting with children's scissors
- defining which space or materials belong to whom
- finding and stating answers to questions in her or his own way
- holding a pencil or crayon

Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children.

## Welcome to Kindergarten Information for Parents



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[www.ocdsb.ca](http://www.ocdsb.ca)

## Information for Parents

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's kindergarten program provides children with organized educational activities appropriate for young learners, taking into account their physical, intellectual, social, and emotional needs. The young child's natural world is one of curiosity, exploration, and imagination; the richest game area is likely to occur when these capacities are promoted in the classroom through play. Children investigate and develop an understanding of their world through play. Play provides a context in which the teacher observes the children's handling of materials and social situations, assesses their stages of development, and encourages experiences to further growth.

- **Social/Emotional Development**  
In order to learn effectively, children must feel good about themselves, about school, and about others. A prime goal of kindergarten is to foster social and emotional growth through play. Children practice socially appropriate behaviour and develop self-help skills to assist them in working with new people and situations.
- **Physical Development**  
In indoor and outdoor play, children use balls, hoops, water, sand, and climbers, to strengthen large muscles. Fine motor skills enhance small muscle growth and coordination and include such activities as manipulating stacking toys, picking up small objects with the thumb and forefinger, tracing over simple shapes and designs.
- **Intellectual Development**  
Kindergarten encourages children to develop critical thinking such as observation, compare/contrast, categorization and sequencing skills, to question, to experiment, and to develop creativity through language, music, the arts and drama. As individuals and in groups, children explore topics of natural interest to young learners.
- **Language and Communication Development**  
Activities in kindergarten enhance speaking and listening habits in young children. Games, music, stories, and discussions build necessary oral language skills such as vocabulary, concepts and grammar which are required for later instruction in reading, writing, and oral communication.

Kindergarten provides a learning program developed from guidelines provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

**Great Beginnings Start with Caring Staff**  
Kindergarten teachers have a genuine love for small children, show a lot of patience, kindness and empathy toward the needs of the young child. They realize the initial years in the kindergarten environment provide an extension of the home and provide a warm, caring environment for your child in order that he/she may develop in the above

areas. At the same time your kindergarten teacher will help your child to develop a sense of responsibility and beginning independence.

### Your Child's Introduction to Kindergarten

Once your child is registered in kindergarten, you will be notified regarding school entry procedures. You and your child will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher alone, prior to regular attendance of all children. This meeting will occur during the first two weeks of school. Its primary focus is to share information about your child's preschool and health history including allergies, along with developmental milestones and pertinent details relating to your child's history in your family. At this time, there is no attempt by the teacher to assess your child's academic readiness for formal learning. Rather, the emphasis is on creating a relaxed, joyful transition from home to school.

In order to foster a climate of warmth and comfort, the entry of kindergarten children is staggered over several days. This means each child enters school for the first time as one of a smaller group, whose needs can better be met by the teacher during the first busy days of school.

### City of Ottawa Public Health Branch

Although the City of Ottawa Public Health Branch gathers information about your child's immunization record, it no longer provides visual and auditory screening. Parents who notice their child having difficulty seeing or hearing should contact their family doctor. Parents who are concerned about their child's communication development before the age of five years, should contact the Parent-Child Information Line of the First Words Program at 724-4179. If your child has lived outside Canada or in a First Nations community in Canada for more than three months in the past five years, contact the City of Ottawa Immunization Line at 724-4108 for information.

### French Instruction

Children in junior and senior kindergarten are introduced daily to French through songs, rhymes, movement, stories, and a variety of other activities. The Core French Second Language Program is delivered each school day. Early French Immersion is an option in senior kindergarten with instruction given in French. Further information is available from schools offering these programs. Please call the Program Division at 596-8292, for a list of these schools.

### Kindergarten Class Time

The time children spend in a kindergarten class includes:

- **Play Time at Learning Centres**  
Children engage in small group and individual play at learning centres, some permanent and others short term. Learning centres may include water, sand, crafts, blocks and other building tools, nature, puppets, dress-up, library, puzzles, carpentry, climbing and computers. Much of the subject content is pursued through activities at these centres. Teachers monitor

the focus at various centres to accommodate changing needs and interests. Many classrooms are equipped with computers that have software programs to reinforce readiness skills. During play time, the teacher interacts with the child, or small groups of children.

- **Circle Time**  
Children assemble in a large group for storytelling, songs, games, finger plays, rhythm band, creative movement, math, science activities, and discussion. The focal point of this part of the day is literacy development: the growth of oral expression, the fostering of interest in books and reading, and related language activities.
- **Indoor/Outdoor Play**  
Most frequently, students play together in the classroom, in the gym, or outside. Enjoyment of energetic activity allows students to use large and small muscles to improve coordination and to build self-confidence.

## Kindergarten Parents are Important

- **Partnership**  
The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board believes in a strong partnership between school and home. An active role in your child's education is vital.
- **Volunteering**  
Children, teachers, and parents gain from active parent-volunteer programs. Kindergarten teachers often welcome parents, older students, teachers-in-training, early child-hood educators, senior citizens, specialists such as story-tellers or musicians, and other members of the community. Volunteers enrich the kindergarten program in many ways. Parents gain valuable insights by observing their children in the preschool setting; children feel special pride and pleasure by having parents with them.
- **School Councils**  
All our elementary and secondary schools have a school council. Parents and guardians are encouraged to take an active part in this advisory group.

To volunteer or find out more about your school council, speak to the principal, or the kindergarten teacher.

## For Further Information

Talk to the staff at your neighbourhood school. These caring individuals are able to provide you with support, guidance, and information on kindergarten. Information sessions are held in individual schools. These meetings highlight program possibilities, children's needs and preparation for school, as well as parent concerns.



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# Program Options

If your child will be age four or five by December 31, 2011, they are ready for kindergarten starting in September 2011.

Registration will be accepted anytime during the school year (beyond the February registration period).

Program choices in the OCDSB for elementary students include:

- Regular English
- Early French Immersion (SK entry)
- Middle French Immersion (grade 4 entry)
- Alternative



# Regular English Program

The regular English program allows students to concentrate on English language skills. The program is available from kindergarten to graduation. The program is child centered and stresses proficiency in all subject areas.

In this program, English is the language of instruction for all subjects other than French.

Note: At the elementary level, the following subjects are taught:

Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Social Studies (including Geography and History), Health and Physical Education, The Arts and Core French.



# Regular English/Core French

In the regular English program, students receive instruction in Core French:

- 100 minutes per week - JK and SK
- 200 minutes per week - grades 1 to 8



# Early French Immersion (EFI)

The Early French Immersion (EFI) program provides students with the opportunity to become functionally bilingual through an early entry with maximum exposure to French.

A student who successfully completes the EFI program, and later enrolls in a secondary level program which meets the requirements to obtain the OCDSB Extended French or French Immersion Certificate, is expected to be able to communicate with ease and feel comfortable in either language community (English or French) and also accept employment, training or further education in either language.

Note: The entry point for EFI is senior kindergarten.



# EFI - French/English Instructional Time

In the EFI program, students are provided with:

- 100 minutes per week of Core French - JK
- SK - (half day - 100% French; full day - 50% French/50% English)
- grade 1 - 100% French
- grades 2 and 3 - 80% French /20% English
- grades 4 to 6 - 60% French /40% English
- grades 7 and 8 - 50% French /50% English

Note: Mathematics instruction in English begins in grade 4.\*

The *OCDSB Elementary Time Allocation Model* outlines the language of instruction and number of minutes of instruction per week in each subject area.



# Middle French Immersion (MFI)

The Middle French Immersion (MFI) program provides students with the opportunity to obtain a solid foundation in English language skills in the primary grades before starting intensive study of French.

A student who successfully completes the MFI program, and later enrolls in a secondary level program which meets the requirements to obtain the OCDSB Extended French or French Immersion Certificate, is expected to be able to communicate with ease and feel comfortable in either language community (English or French) and also accept employment, training or further education in either language.

Note: The open entry point for MFI is grade 4.



# MFI -French/English Instructional Time

In the MFI program, students are provided with:

- 100 minutes per week of Core French - JK and SK
- 200 minutes per week of Core French - grades 1 to 3
- grades 4 to 6 - 66% French /34% English
- grades 7 and 8 - 50% French /50% English

Note: Mathematics instruction in English begins in grade 4.\*

The *OCDSB Elementary Time Allocation Model* outlines the language of instruction and number of minutes of instruction per week in each subject area.



# Alternative Program

In the Alternative Program, English is the language of instruction for all subjects other than Core French.

With strong community support and parent involvement, the Alternative program is based on the concept of student-centered learning. This philosophy translates into all aspects of the child's experience at school.

The alternative education philosophy is based on the following core tenets: cooperation and teamwork; commitment to innovative approaches; balance between student-directed and teacher-directed learning; multi-aged groupings; family-centered school environment; ongoing assessment and evaluation.



# Early Learning Program

In September 2011, the OCDSB will be in its second year of phasing in full-day learning for four- and five-year-old kindergarten students.

Twenty-nine of our elementary schools will offer the Early Learning Kindergarten Program (ELKP) in September. The list of schools offering the program (all-day kindergarten classes) can be found at [www.ocdsb.ca](http://www.ocdsb.ca).

The goal is to expand the ELKP to all elementary schools by the 2015-2016 school year.

Note: The selected ELKP sites will also offer before and after school programs led by registered early childhood educators. These programs are optional and will be available for a reasonable fee.



# Transportation

School bus transportation is available to all kindergarten students who live more than 0.8 km from their school.

Information regarding transportation is available at your school or from the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA)

by phone: 613-224-8800

by e-mail: [admin@ottawaschoolbus.ca](mailto:admin@ottawaschoolbus.ca).



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The Kindergarten program is designed to help children build on their prior knowledge and experiences, form concepts, acquire foundational skills, and form positive attitudes to learning as they begin to develop their goals for life long learning.

The Kindergarten Program - revised, Ontario Ministry of Education, 2006, p. 5



We would be privileged to welcome you  
and your child to our kindergarten  
program.

At the OCDSB, we're  
"Educating for Success - Inspiring  
Learning and Building Citizenship".



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Questions?



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