



Fact Sheet

Supporting the Transition to Kindergarten

January 2024

“Children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential. They grow up in families with diverse social, cultural, and linguistic perspectives. Every child should feel that they belong, is a valuable contributor to their surroundings, and deserves the opportunities to succeed. When we recognize children as capable and curious, we are more likely to deliver programs and services that value and build on their strengths and abilities.”

[How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years](#)

Six Principles to Guide Practice in Early Years Settings:

1. Positive experiences in early childhood set the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour, health, & well-being.
2. Partnerships with families and communities are essential.
3. Respect for diversity, equity, and inclusion is vital.
4. An intentional, planned program supports learning.
5. Play and inquiry are learning approaches that capitalize on children’s natural curiosity and exuberance.
6. Knowledgeable, responsive, and reflective educators are essential.

What is a Transition?

Transition is defined as *a process of period of change*. The early years of a child’s life are full of transitions, with the entry to Kindergarten being a major one.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN THROUGH TRANSITIONS

Making the transition to a new learning setting can have an impact on families. For both children and caregivers, transitions can lead to excitement, joy, uncertainty, and concerns.

6 TIPS FOR PARENTS’ TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

We can be more helpful to our kids if we acknowledge that the transition to kindergarten is a big life step for adults as well. Think about what will help you through this developmental milestone, whether that’s information, support from friends and family, networking at the new school, etc. Do what you need to do for you, so you can be at your best for your kids!



1



Adjust your own routines

Morning, bedtime, travel – make sure you still have the time you will need as you adjust your kids’ routines

2



Acknowledge and support your mixed feelings

You can feel anxiety and joy and pride and apprehension all at the same time, and all of your feelings are valid!

3



Call upon your “experienced” parent friends

They’ve been here before and can talk you through your first day jitters

4



Show up!

As much as you can, show up for events, meetings, pick up and drop off, playdates, or anything else that will help you feel involved

5



Expect stress – yours and theirs

And limit other transitions for a while, whenever possible

6



Stay positive, even when it’s hard

You’ve got this, and your kids do, too



When it comes to helping children navigate transitions, the key is to create a sense of safety and security for your child and their developing brain.

Fact Sheet

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTS



TRANSITIONS TO KINDERGARTEN



REGISTRATION

Registration can be done online by clicking here: [REGISTER TODAY!](#)
Registration forms will also be available at local schools & at Band offices in your community.



EVENTS

Welcome to Kindergarten events begin in February! Invites will come from your local school. Meet other families, explore the classroom and get to know the staff!



FIRST RIDER PROGRAM

In August, families are invited to come and ride the bus, meet the bus driver, and learn bus safety!



A PERSONAL APPROACH

It is important that your child has a seamless transition into Kindergarten. Contact your local school to set up a meeting with your child's educators to ensure they know everything about your child!



SPECIAL EDUCATION

All children, including those with special education needs, have the right to attend school. School teams are experienced in working with a child's care team to ensure all supports are in place when a child begins their education journey with us!



EARLY ON & CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Many of our schools are home to amazing EarlyON and childcare programs for families. Our staff work as partners with these organizations to ensure for a seamless transition for your child.

Getting Involved in Your School Community

Caregivers play an important role in their child's learning and studies show that students achieve more success if their caregivers become involved in the school. Superior-Greenstone District School Board offers caregivers multiple opportunities to become involved in their child's educational journey.

- Chat with educators during pick-up and drop-off.

- Join School Council.
- Join Parent Engagement Committee meetings and events.
- Attend school assemblies, events, field trips, etc.
- Spend time in your child's classroom or volunteer to teach a skill you have.
- Attend parent information events, student-led conferences, etc.
- Volunteer to support the breakfast/snack program.
- Check your child's school's social media posts (EDSBY, Facebook, Instagram) to keep updated on school events.
- Check your child's backpack everyday for any notes that might come home.

Joining a new school community can be intimidating for caregivers. Reach out to a friend or another new parent and join an activity together!

Check out our Welcome to Kindergarten video here:

[Welcome to Kindergarten at Superior-Greenstone DSB!](#)

