





INFORMATION for PARENTS

Your child is starting Kindergarten

FIVE'S
the time to
start **THINKING**
wow!
'Cause
Kindergarten's
ready for us
NOW!



Québec 

A hand is shown using tweezers to pick up a small object from a tray of colorful toothpicks. The tray contains several toothpicks in various colors: pink, orange, blue, and purple. A clear plastic container filled with more toothpicks is visible in the background. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

Your child is starting Kindergarten this year.
This is a crucial step in a child's education, since it is an introduction to a new world of discovery and learning. With help from teachers, and from you of course, your child will set out on a beautiful journey.

If children are to embark on this voyage willingly, they need to enjoy learning right from the very start. As a parent, **you have a key role to play** by encouraging your child through these first steps in school and by providing support through every stage of learning. **You can contribute to your child's success** by becoming a **valued partner** of everyone working in the school system.

What is the goal of Kindergarten? What will your child learn there? What are the approaches favoured by the Preschool Education program? In this brochure, you will find information to help you will help you provide the support your child needs to meet new challenges.

Kindergarten adapted to today's reality

In Kindergarten, children discover the fascinating worlds to explore all through elementary school. They will have opportunities **to build the foundations of their future learning**. This is a very important stage in education, aimed at enabling children:

- > **to explore their senses and motor skills;**
- > **to get to know themselves and develop their personality and independence;**
- > **to form relationships with others;**
- > **to continue improving their communication skills;**
- > **to nurture their desire to learn;**
- > **to experiment with new work methods.**

Liking school helps children want to learn

Kindergarten is the gateway to the school system. Your child is welcomed with open arms and every effort is made to take into account the experience that he or she has had at home or in daycare.

Your child will be encouraged to develop **positive attitudes toward school and learning**, and these attitudes will translate into behaviours that will lead to success at school.



The Kindergarten classroom is an ideal place to develop new skills

Kindergarten contributes to the overall development of your child. Thanks to the various learning situations offered in Kindergarten, your child will progress physically, emotionally and socially, as well as in terms of language and knowledge.

Your child will develop skills to help him or her function in a group while stimulating his or her intellectual curiosity. In addition to acquiring knowledge, he or she will be given **new experiences in a stimulating environment and context**.

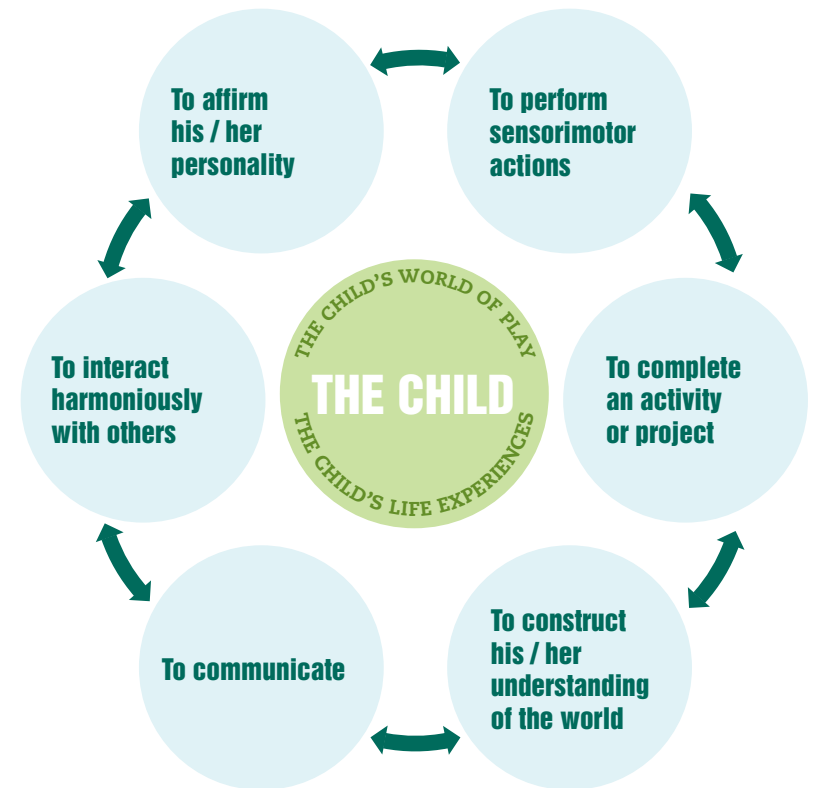
As your child learns, he or she will practice using judgment and making the best choices to progress in life. Kindergarten will provide your child with opportunities to develop the following competencies:

Learning through play

In Kindergarten, **play is the best way to learn**. Making up a story, working a puppet, skipping rope or playing grocer are all opportunities for children to discover new realities, to experiment with strategies and to learn to apply rules. They will enjoy doing this while **learning through play**. For example, when your child stacks wooden blocks to build a house, he or she is encouraged to explain the process and strategies used and thus, to recognize and put names to what is being learned. In the same way, through various stimulating situations, your child will develop the attitudes required for cooperation, taking responsibility and developing creativity.



This approach will enable your child to **expand his or her experiences** and **gradually prepare him or her for entering elementary school**.



At the end of the Kindergarten experience, your child will possess all the tools necessary to continue learning in elementary school.



Be a partner in your child's education

Parents are the prime educators of their children. That is why you are being invited to play an active role in Kindergarten education. Your enthusiasm and your curiosity about what your child is experiencing from day to day in the classroom will encourage him or her to talk to you about school. By sharing your child's favourite songs, games and best-loved books, by finding out about his or her projects and relationships with new friends, you **will become a partner in his or her discoveries**. If your child feels you are taking an interest in school activities, he or she will be motivated to work hard and succeed.

Communication tools: Report cards and competency reports

By becoming aware of your child's strengths and challenges, you can become an indispensable ally in his or her academic progress. For this purpose, the school uses different means to evaluate student learning and to inform parents about the progress made. For example, **twice a year**, you will receive a **report card** showing your child's progress.

In Kindergarten, evaluation is usually done during regular classroom activities. It is based mainly on observation and focuses on the children's attitudes, behaviours, learning processes, strategies and work produced. In addition, your child will learn to take part in self-evaluation, to be able to identify what was learned, and to recognize strengths and areas requiring improvement. **At the end of the school year**, you will also receive a **competency report**, which will indicate the level of development your child has achieved for each competency of the Preschool Education program.

It is important to thoroughly understand the report cards and the competency report. **Your child's teacher will be happy to answer any questions you may have.**

A whole team helping your child succeed

As a parent, you will be in contact during the coming months with the school administrators and the team of professionals responsible for supporting your child's learning. The key player on this team is the teacher who works with your child every day. The teacher is the person who, first and foremost, will fulfill the threefold mandate of preschool education:

- 1 To give the student a liking for school
- 2 To foster his or her overall development
- 3 To lay the groundwork for his or her future social and cognitive learning

In this new environment, your child will also be assisted by the library, secretarial and daycare staff at the school. Moreover, the school works with various outside partners, such as community organizations and the health and social services network, to help carry out its mission and foster your child's success. All these people work as a team in order to have a better overview of your child's development.

Support your child

You are invited to play an active role by taking part in activities organized by the school and the **governing board**. The **educational project and success plan** of your child's school are excellent tools to **inform you about the school's objectives and the measures it is taking to help students succeed**.

By entering Kindergarten, your child is taking an important step. If you **establish a relationship with his or her teacher that is based on respect, trust and openness**, this will be of enormous benefit. You can count on the school, just as the school depends on you, to help your child meet this demanding and exciting challenge.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Québec Education Program, please visit the Web site of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport at <http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca>

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