

Those First School Days

Because the teachers of Newfoundland and Labrador feel that the first weeks of school set the stage for your child's entire educational experience, this brochure has been prepared to help you, your child and the teacher have a successful first year.

That Important First Day

School can be a very happy place for your child if s/he is prepared for the experience. Talk about school in a positive way, attempt to describe the physical setting, activities, new friendships and experiences your child will have. Answer your child's questions and reassure him or her that school will be a cheerful place.

A Good Beginning – Learning Through Play

At Kindergarten your child will learn to:

- work alone and with others;
- share and take turns;
- develop responsibility;
- build a wholesome attitude towards him/herself as an individual.

There will be activities designed to:

- show likeness and differences in size, shape, and colour;
- increase oral expression and listening abilities;
- develop awareness of the alphabet, picture reading, vocabulary and an interest in books;
- improve eye and hand coordination and left to right progression;
- appreciate music and take part in activities designed to develop large and small muscles;
- increase awareness of numbers and science concepts.

How You Can Help

Parents and teachers are partners in the learning process. We encourage and value your participation in your child's school experience. Your help will serve to make this year a pleasant and productive one. The following suggestions will help us both to fulfill your child's needs.

Social

- Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children his/her own age.
- Teach him/her to tidy up and put play things away when finished.
- Encourage your child by showing interest in, and appreciation of, his/her school work.
- Teach him/her to respect the space and property of others.
- Encourage your child to be independent.

Health

- Teach him/her to ask to use the bathroom facilities when necessary.
- Teach him/her to wash their hands after using the bathroom.
- Provide your child with nutritious snacks such as fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Help your child to understand the necessity of changing footwear and clothing to suit the different types of weather indoors and outdoors.
- Be sure the teacher knows who to contact, and at what phone number, should an emergency occur.

Safety

- Help your child to understand directions for getting to and from school, to wait for a brother or sister or for his/her parents or guardians, or to wait for the bus at school. Students will be assisted in getting on the school bus.
- Inform the school immediately of any change of address, bus route or telephone number.