



Full-Day Kindergarten

Questions and Answers

for Parents and Guardians

Q: When will full-day Kindergarten programming start in Newfoundland and Labrador?

A: Full-day Kindergarten programming will start in September 2016.

Q: Will I have the option to send my child to school for half a day only?

A: Effective September 2016, Kindergarten will only be offered as a full day program with no half-day option.

Q: How many students will be in a Kindergarten classroom?

A: There will be with a maximum of twenty students with one teacher. In some schools a team teaching model will be required as a temporary measure. In these cases there will be two teachers and a maximum of 28 students in one classroom.

Q: How will the new full-day Kindergarten be different from the current half-day program?

A: A full day will provide more time for deeper engagement and exploration of the learning outcomes outlined in Completely Kindergarten: Kindergarten Curriculum Guide (2010). There is no change in the outcomes expected for Kindergarten students.

Q: What is play-based learning?

A: All children have the right and a need to play. Play is how students learn about themselves and the world in which they live. Through play-based learning, students develop important social, cognitive, physical, and language skills. The extra time in a full day setting will enable Kindergarten students to learn using the most appropriate method. For more information and research about play and students' learning and development, see www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/earlychildhood/power.html

Q: What does a play-based classroom look like?

A: Kindergarten classrooms in Newfoundland and Labrador currently reflect a play-based approach. Various learning areas are designed throughout the classroom, offering many choices. You will see students in different areas as the teacher moves throughout the room facilitating play and learning. Areas may include designated spaces for dramatic play, block play, reading, writing, art, and individual and group student work. Teachers add materials to learning areas based on students' interests and Kindergarten learning outcomes. Students will also have access to outside play spaces.



Q: What will my child’s day look like?

A: Teachers establish daily routines that provide students with a sense of security and belonging. A typical day may include morning sign-in, free play, large and small group meetings, exploring ideas, singing, storytelling, quiet reflective time, snack and lunch breaks, and outdoor play. Students will use the same curriculum currently being taught in Kindergarten over a full day of learning. This allows for more time to be creative, to move and interact, and express themselves.

Q: Will there be a new curriculum for full-day Kindergarten?

A: Learning outcomes remain the same. Completely Kindergarten: Kindergarten Curriculum Guide (2010) and Guide – Maternelle: Immersion française (2012) are the curriculum guides that will continue to be used for full-day Kindergarten in English and French. There are no additional learning outcomes for a full-day.

Q: Will my child learn to read in Kindergarten?

A: As part of their reading development, students will engage in many early reading activities such as retelling a story from pictures, book-handling skills, and developing a love of reading. While some students will begin reading independently, it is not an expectation that all students will read by the end of Kindergarten.

Q: Will all Kindergarten classes receive the same resources?

A: New Kindergarten classrooms will be equipped with all of the authorized resources used by existing classrooms, such as mathematics manipulatives, big books for shared reading, and children’s literature that support learning outcomes. To further support learning, all Kindergarten classrooms will receive new play-based materials in addition to authorized resources, such as building blocks, puppet theatre, and kitchen centre.

Q: What about students with special needs?

A: Students with identified exceptionalities will be accommodated. Kindergarten classrooms are inclusive by design, with flexible arrangements for physical movement, social interaction, and learning needs.

Q: My child is already receiving services. Will they continue when my child starts Kindergarten?

A: Schools work collaboratively with families who receive professional services outside of school personnel. It is important to talk with your child’s school about any special services he or she is receiving.

Q: Will Kindergarten students ride a bus to school?

A: Busing will be provided according to current guidelines: students who reside more than 1.6 km from their school by the shortest route will be eligible to avail of bus services. Buses operate before and after school, picking up and dropping off students at designated bus stops. Specific bus routes and schedules differ from school to school, so it is important to talk with your child’s school administration.

Q: What does play-based learning look like in a French immersion classroom?

A: Play-based learning in French immersion (FI) looks very similar to play-based learning in an English classroom. French is the language of communication and instruction as well as a focus of learning. Consequently, there will be more teacher-directed activities, especially early in the year, to develop a French language base that students practice in the learning areas. The extended day gives FI students more opportunities to hear, speak, and learn French through play, stories, songs, games, and second language learning activities.

Q: Will multi-grade classrooms provide play-based learning?

A: Kindergarten students will remain with the multi-grade class for the full day and follow the Completely Kindergarten curriculum. Multi-grade classrooms will be provided with all resources and play-based materials for the Kindergarten program. A play-based approach can be used in a variety of ways throughout the Primary level.

Q: What can I do to prepare my child for full-day Kindergarten?

A: Share positive school experiences that will excite him or her to become a lifelong learner. Encourage your child’s natural curiosity and wonder to help support a love of learning.



Education and Early Childhood Development