



# Welcome to Kindergarten

[Full Day Kindergarten Program Guide](#)

[When I Go to Kindergarten](#)



## What is Gradual Entry?

The Ministry of Education requires less minutes of instruction for Kindergarten students. This means they attend twenty-five hours less of school. The gradual entry to Kindergarten provides children with a modified initial schedule to ease their transition to Kindergarten. Districts adjust the startup plan, giving Kindergarten children a more gradual start. Kindergarten Gradual Entry is designed to allow young children the opportunity to slowly get used to schools. This means your child will have focused time to connect with their Kindergarten teacher and adjust to the new social and emotional realities of the elementary school context. This 'gift of time' will also allow children and teachers to work in small, personalized groups.

Gradual entry:

- helps children become a successful learner from the very first day of school
- allows children to adjust to their new school, teacher and classmates
- helps the children learn the routines of their new classroom and school
- may have children come to school in groups, sometimes for a shorter amount of time. This gentle introduction to Kindergarten builds a solid foundation for school life.
- helps teachers identify the strengths and needs of the class.
- introduces children to classroom routines and procedures, easing the transition in a more individualized way to show children feel comfortable and valued as an important new members of our school community.

- provides regular shortened practice of daily routines
- allows children extra time in their day to recharge and rest, which is essential to a positive school adjustment



### **Tips to help your child prepare for Kindergarten**

- Listen and talk to your child about what Kindergarten will be like. Express excitement so that your child will look forward to Kindergarten.
- Try to arrange for your child to spend independent time with relatives or close family friends. This encourages your child to communicate their needs to other adults. It also gives you a window to see how your child reacts without you.
- Set up playdates over the summer months so your child can get to know some of the children who will be going to Kindergarten.
- Visit the school and the playground before the start of Kindergarten
- Take advantage of community Ready, Set, Learn and local Kindergarten Orientation events!

For the [RSL events](#) and Kindergarten Orientation please visit your local school or our [District website](#).

[Helping Your Kindergartener with Separation Anxiety \(youtube.com\)](#)

Please visit our district website to find out more information about [Kindergarten](#).

