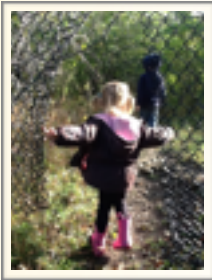


All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

“Most of what I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in Kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sand pile.

These are the things I learned:



- Share everything
- Play fair
- Don't hit people
- Put things back where you found them
- Clean up your own mess
- Don't take things that aren't yours
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody
- Wash your hands before you eat
- Flush
- Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you
- Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and play and work every day some
- Take a nap every afternoon
- When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together
- Be aware of wonder”

Robert Fulgrum

Bienvenue Welcome



à la maternelle !

Mme Tipler et Mme McMillan

École Fred A. Hamilton
Upper Grand District School Board

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to an amazing journey in our Kindergarten class! We hope everyone had a lovely summer and is looking forward to an exciting year filled with a variety of learning activities that will challenge and enliven our bodies and minds!

During the first couple of weeks we will focus on school routines, getting-to-know-you activities, as well as creating a classroom environment that feels safe and welcoming to everyone.

This booklet has been compiled to provide you with some insight about classroom/school routines and our kindergarten program.

We are very mindful of learning with our head, hands, and heart ensuring that everything that we do is meaningful, active, and thoughtful.

Bienvenue à la maternelle ! Mme Tipler et Mme McMillan



What Did You Do Today?

When children come home at the end of the day
The question they're asked as they scurry to play is
"Tell me, what did you do today?"

And the answer they give makes you sigh with
dismay, "Nothing, I did nothing today!"

Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks,
Or I counted to ten with Mrs. Cox,

Maybe I painted a picture of red and blue,
Or heard a story about a mouse that flew.

Maybe I watched the gerbils eat today,
Or went outside on the swings to play.

Maybe today was the very first time that my
scissors followed a very straight line.

Maybe I led a song from beginning to end
Or played with a brand new friend.

When you're only five and your heart has wings,
Nothing can mean so many things!

- Anonymous



****Please note:** any images used in this pamphlet I have received written permission from the parents of the child depicted to use their image.

Evaluation & Reporting

Young children grow and develop at different rates and the achievement of curriculum learning expectations will vary from child to child. A variety of evaluation methods will be used to provide an overall picture of each child's development and all teachers involved with your child's education will collaborate and contribute to their evaluation.

We use The Ontario Kindergarten Program 2016 — as a basis for evaluation, which can be found online at: www.edu.gov.on.ca.

There are three formal report cards that will be sent home during the Kindergarten year. A progress report will be sent home in November and two report cards will follow, one in March and the other in June. Parent-teacher conferences will also be held at this time. We feel that it is extremely important to have a welcoming home-school connection and we will gladly respond to your inquiries as they arise. We are generally available at the end of the day; however, please be mindful that we may have previous commitments. You are always welcome to email (tipskinder@gmail.com) if you have any questions or to set up a time to chat.



We truly value all of our roles in your child's education and believe that "it takes a village to raise/educate a child"!

Full Day Kindergarten Program

Play-Based Learning

Play-based learning allows children to understand their social environment through interactions with people, objects, and symbols. It is creative and self-directed. Play can be categorized as:

- ☒ **"Onlooker behaviour** – Playing passively by watching or conversing with other children engaged in play activities.
- ☒ **Solitary independent** – Playing by oneself.
- ☒ **Parallel** – Playing, even in the middle of a group, while remaining engrossed in one's own activity. Children playing parallel to each other sometimes use each other's toys, but always maintain their independence.
- ☒ **Associative** – When children share materials and talk to each other, but do not coordinate play objectives or interests.
- ☒ **Cooperative** – When children organize themselves into roles with specific goals in mind (e.g., to assign the roles of doctor, nurse, and patient and play hospital)."

What is the role of the Educators?

Educators provide various settings and open-ended activities, which allow students to explore, make inquiries, and develop their creativity. Learning centres are carefully planned to address 6 specific Ontario curriculum expectations. Educators model behaviours, observe and interact with students, keeping in mind that it is the children who are the decision-makers during play.

What are the benefits?

Through play children develop:

- ☒ Critical thinking skills
- ☒ Creativity
- ☒ Improved social skills
- ☒ A sense of community and security
- ☒ A sense of self and others
- ☒ Self-regulation, self-motivation, and self-confidence
- ☒ Fine and gross motor skills
- ☒ Symbolic competence required for formal learning
- ☒ Improved language fluency
- ☒ Increased brain pathways
- ☒ A love for learning



The Importance of Play in School

“Although play is a difficult concept to define, it is very easy to recognize. Children actively involved in play may be engaged in a variety of activities, independently, with a partner, or in a group. Because play is closely tied to the cognitive, socio-emotional, and motor development of young children, it is an important part of developmentally appropriate early childhood programs.”

-Earlychildhood NEWS, 2008

We generally like to wait until at least mid-October before we invite parents into the classroom. We want to ensure that the children are comfortable in their new environment and will not feel anxious/upset when you transition out of the classroom. Thank you so much for your understanding!

We would welcome any recyclable items (e.g., scraps of wood, nails, screws, nuts and bolts, glitter, googly eyes, paper towel rolls, glass jars, greeting cards), art supplies, or dried baking ingredients that you are willing to donate. These items are great for the children to develop their fine motor skills by manipulating and creating authentic pieces of work.



Play Dough Recipes

2 cups flour	2 tbsp oil
2 tbsp cream of tartar	Food colouring
1 cup salt	2 cups of water

1. Mix dry ingredients and oil in a pot.
2. Add food colouring to water.
3. Add coloured water to dry ingredients.
4. Mix ingredients all together.
5. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly with a clean plastic or wooden spoon. Play dough is ready when it comes away from the sides of the pot and forms a ball.
6. Use rubber gloves or wait until cool and knead.

<http://www.theimaginationtree.com/p/play-dough-salt-dough.html>

Home Toys

Please refrain from allowing your child bring toys in from home. We have so many activities for your child to engage in. This also reduces the amount of stressed caused when their favourite toy is lost.

Planning Time Teachers

This year's planning time teachers are M. Barker and M. Adams. M. Barker will come into the classroom one period, four times a week, and will be primarily responsible for teaching the math curriculum, along with Mme McMillan. M. Adams will see the children once a week in the library, where he will concentrate on French literacy skills.

Library

M. Adams is our librarian. The children will learn how to access and sign out library materials. We will visit the library on a weekly basis to exchange books. They will sign out one French book and one English book. Please choose a special spot to keep your child's library books, to reduce misplacing them. Please note that there are charges for lost books.



Volunteering - Home-School Connection

We truly welcome parent volunteers into the classroom/school. There are many ways that you can volunteer: making play dough, assisting with nutrition breaks, reading, learning centres, cleaning toys, assisting with trips, sharing a passion/culture/talent with the class, school council, parent volunteer committee, etc...

If you have a talent (e.g, music, drama, storytelling, painting, woodworking, sport) or cultural knowledge that you would like to share with the class, please bring it to our attention and we will gladly have invite you to come in!

What your child will experience in our classroom?

Authentic Child-Directed Learning

— Forest Play

We teach to the head, hands, and heart of our children. Outdoor play, especially forest play, is known to have extremely positive effects on children (e.g., hands-on learning, open spaces for children to learn and explore through self-directed play, "I am responsible for my learning", improved confidence and self-awareness, increased physical activity, better concentration, augments vocabulary, direct application of scientific and mathematical concepts, inquiry-based learning, reduces anxieties, enhances fine and gross motor skills, healthy risk-taking, environmental awareness, instills empathy, rich experiences allow for creative drawing, writing, artistic, and scientific exploration,...).



****Explores all components on the Kindergarten curriculum.****

We run an excellent outdoor/forest kindergarten program, witnessed and supported by the Ministry of Education, Superintendent, and the Kindergarten Consultant. We understand the importance of active outdoor exploration and we will be outside at least three hours a day, *every day*, all year long! Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for all weather conditions (e.g, hats, rainwear, snow gear, extra socks and mittens). Dressing in layers is a great way for your child to adapt to the fluctuation in temperature throughout the day. Please note that we divide our students into two small groups throughout the day and closely supervise their social, emotional, and comfort level, as well as their interests and learning.

****We are a classroom that likes to learn, explore, and get dirty!
Please be mindful of this when dressing your child for school.****

— Literacy and Numeracy

Children learn through play, on their own, with their peers, and with their teachers. We see our classroom as a democratic environment, deciding together or on our own how and what we are going to learn. However, we do have times within our day where teachers will take the lead to ensure that we are reaching the needs of all of our students. Understanding the way children learn, we ensure that we are using a good combination of songs, games, books, experiments, inquiries, and experiences that are stimulating, meaningful, and address curriculum expectations.

— French in the Classroom

The French Immersion program is a full immersion program. French will be used regularly in the classroom, supplemented by English when necessary. The children will learn French in a progressive and authentic manner through daily routines, songs, poems, and interactions.

— Building

Empowering our students to take responsible risks and try new things is very important to us. This year we will also be learning how to build various items using many different materials (e.g., recycled materials, wood, forest finds). Our students will learn the importance of safety and patience when using tools within the classroom.



— Cooking & Baking

Cooking and baking are other important components of our kindergarten program, which are rich in learning, touches all of the curriculum areas, and helps to establish a sense of community in the classroom. Please inform us if your child has any dietary restrictions/allergies.

No Nuts Please!

École Fred A. Hamilton is a nut free zone, this means all forms of nuts and tree nuts are not welcome in the school since we have several students with severe allergies. Please be careful to read the ingredients listed on any products you send to school with your child.



Indoor Shoes & Outdoor Shoes

Please send an extra pair of shoes for indoor use. We recommend Velcro running shoes, unless your child is capable of *independently* tying his/her own laces. The same pair of indoor shoes can be used for gym. Indoor shoes help keep our carpet, classroom, and gym clean.

Extra Clothing

Please send a change of clothes in a labeled Ziploc bag for those unavoidable accidents (e.g., mud, milk, paint, water, or bathroom-related). Please remember to label the clothing too!

Please label everything!

WE WOULD LOVE IF YOU LABELED EVERYTHING!

Please clearly label all of your child's belongings (e.g., clothing, shoes, boots, mittens, hats, containers, water bottles, etc...). With brand new school clothing, children are not always able to easily identify their belongings. It is much easier to find the rightful owner if they all articles are labeled.

Accounting

Please sign up for school accounting. This is a fast and easy way to pay for things from the comfort of your home. The office will send you information to set up an account. Merci !

Bus students

Bus students will be met by a teacher on duty in front of the school and bus patrols will bring the children to the Kindergarten doors. Similarly, at dismissal time, bus patrols will meet the children in their classroom and escort them to their bus lines.



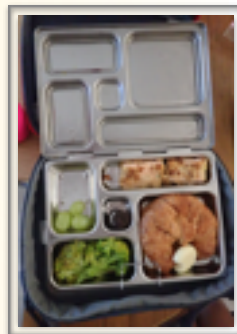
****For the safety of all children, please report to the office if your child is late or needs to leave early. A teacher will gladly come to office to meet you and your child or bring your child to you.****

Nutrition Breaks

We eat three times a day and give the children ample time to finish their food. Their first snack time is when they arrive in the morning. The first official recess/nutrition break is from 10h25-11h05 and the second break is from 12h45-13h30. We request that the children eat quietly so they can concentrate on eating and it also gives them the opportunity to quiet their brains and bodies. Children will go outside first and eat when they come in. This allows us to give them extra time to continue eating. Please use reusable containers that your child can independently open. Healthy lunches are best for developing brains, have little packaging, and satisfy little tummies of active learners.

Boomerang Lunches

What does this mean? This means that everything that your child brings for lunch (packaging, containers, and fruit cores/peels) will go back into their lunch bags for parents to dispose of. Not only will this reduce the amount of food waste and garbage, but we will see an increase in reusable containers, less processed foods eaten by our children, increased nutritious foods, and *you will see exactly what your child is or is not eating.*



— The Arts

We believe that The Arts play an integral part of learning in our Kindergarten classroom. Introducing elements of design and various techniques to our children allow them to develop their own sense of artistic beauty. We generally do not create “cookie cutter” visual art. The artwork that your child creates is personal and authentic to them. Pre-cutting shapes for children to glue to recreate “my artwork” is not meaningful and little knowledge it gained.



— Cleaning & Organizing

We all pitch in to ensure our classroom is tidy! That means your child will be sweeping, washing tables, and tidying up after their activities. Believe it or not, this is very empowering for them!

What Can You do to Find Out More?

We believe that parent involvement in school is key to your child's success. We're not talking about your commitment to the homework we send home — **you won't see very much of that.** We are talking about the fact that four and five year old children **love** to share their experiences and work with their parents. As such, we provide several different methods for you to connect with what is going on at school. First of all, the class website can be found at:

www.mmetiplier.weebly.com

We will blog, post pictures, recordings of our songs, lyrics sheets, French word lists, update the calendar and a lot more to keep you as much in the loop as possible. We would encourage you to visit the website with your child — you will be surprised how many stories you will hear once your child sees some photos.

How can I help at home?

PLAY! Allow your child the opportunity and freedom to explore and play freely and safely in various environments. Great learning comes through play. This will also give your child a rich knowledge base from which to draw upon and make meaningful and creative connections.

READ! Reading stories, nursery rhymes, poems, oral story-telling, and singing songs are great ways to explore words and enhance reading skills. When reading with your child, point out the print and pictures in books and follow the words with your finger. Play fun word games. Literacy in any language is great!

Have a positive attitude about your child beginning school. Your child will draw strength and confidence from your attitude. Learning is fun!

Allow your child to be creative with scissors, glue, paint, crayons, boxes, hammer, nails, etc... Show him/her how to hold scissors and how to cut. Let your child experiment cutting up paper on his/her own. Draw shapes for him/her to cut out the lines. Have fun!

Expose your child to writing and drawing materials. Accept any attempt at drawing and writing as a valid learning experience with print. Drawing is a fundamental step in writing. A detailed drawing tells a beautiful story.

Count with your child. Play cards and board games. Sort laundry/groceries/tools. Cook, bake, sew, build, repair together. Talk.

Help your child learn to zip zippers, button buttons, prepare his/her backpack and lunch bag, dress themselves, tie shoe laces, feel comfortable looking after him/herself in the bathroom. Little ones thrive to be independent.

Reinforce healthy habits: eat breakfast, healthy snacks and meals, allow for downtime, exercise, unplug, play outside, establish good sleeping routines.

Important Classroom & School Details

Mode of Communication

Our primary mode of communication will be through the classroom website and email (tipskinder@gmail.com). Please email if you have any questions or concerns. We will gladly set up an appointment if needed. The “Sac de communication” will be mainly used to send **office information** to and from home. It is important to check it each night and return it to school every day. When you send money to school with your child for school activities, please put it in a sealed envelope and write your child’s name on it along with the name of the activity.



Informing the School of an Absence

Please inform the office if your child will be absent **(519-836-0080)**. Make sure it is the office you inform and not your teacher’s voicemail as these are checked less frequently. Please also send a message through the classroom website under “Contact” or to tipskinder@gmail.com to alert us of any absences and appointments.

Walkers

Teachers are on duty to supervise outdoors at 8h25. Children will line up and wait for their teacher before entering the school at 8h45. *Arriving on time creates good habits, smoother transitions, minimizing classroom disruptions, and ensures that your child is not missing out of any activities.*

At dismissal time (15h10), children will exit the kindergarten wing where they will meet their parent/caregiver. Please ensure that you are on time, as we generally have meetings after school. If your child is to be picked up by someone other than his/her regular guardian, please ensure that you provide us with the person’s name and contact information. **They will also be required to show us identification.**