



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN™

Learning Through Play



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN™

Dear Kindergarten Family,

Welcome to a new school year, and a new issue of *Learning Through Play*!

Fall is a great time for learning together. As leaves change and routines settle, your child is building important skills through everyday moments at home and school.

Vous pouvez soutenir cet apprentissage de façon simple :

- Talk about what you see outside - colours, weather, animals, clothing we wear etc.
- Read books together every day.
- Play games that involve taking turns and solving problems.
- Try new activities like drawing, counting, or sorting leaves.
- Celebrate your child's efforts and ideas.

Your time and attention make a big difference. Keep talking, reading, and playing—because learning happens everywhere!

With care, The WTK Team

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**You are
your child's
first and best
teacher!**

Follow your child's lead as
you play and explore
together

Talk and read with
your child in your
first language

Support
sharing and
taking turns

Celebrate every step of
learning and growing

WHAT'S INSIDE

**Letter Match
and Play**

**Playful Games
for Growing
Minds**

**Cutting Lines
and Shapes**

**Explore
Feelings
Through
Movement**

**Big Moves,
Strong Bodies!**



DRAW AND PRETEND

Drawing and pretending build language skills and build imagination and confidence.

In your copy of the *Welcome to Kindergarten* book, the character says:

“I like to draw and paint.” “I like to play and pretend with my friends.”

You can bring these pages to life at home through drawing and pretending!



Try This: Draw and Act It Out

- Give your child paper and crayons, pencils, or markers.
- Say: “Can you draw yourself doing something fun at school, like in the book?”
- Ask: “What’s happening in your picture?”
- Then say: “Let’s pretend we’re in your picture! What happens next?”
- Take turns acting it out together.



Make It Even More Fun!

Draw pictures of helping a friend, listening to a story, or playing pretend.

Use stuffed animals or toys to act out what’s in the drawing.

Dress up with hats, scarves, or old clothes for extra fun!

Tip: Use the language you’re most comfortable with—every language supports learning!



COUNT AND SORT

1

In the *Welcome to Kindergarten* book, the character says:

"I like to count and learn about numbers."

You can help your child explore numbers in fun ways using things around you!



Try This: Fall Nature Sort

- Go for a walk and collect safe, small items like leaves, pinecones, rocks, or twigs.
- Spread them out and count how many you found.
- Ask: "Can you sort them by size or colour?"
- Make small piles—big leaves in one, small leaves in another.

Make It Even More Fun:

Make a pattern: "Leaf, rock, leaf, rock - what comes next?"

Use a muffin tin or egg carton to sort different items.

Try this indoors with socks, buttons, or toys if it's rainy.

2

Why it's great for learning:

Supports early math thinking

Teaches sorting, counting, and patterns.

Encourages observation and curiosity.

Makes everyday play full of learning



Tip: Count and compare in your home language—this builds strong thinking skills in every language!



PLAYDOUGH CREATIONS

Playing with playdough builds hand strength, creativity, and early math skills. There are many ways to explore and learn with playdough.



Try This: Make and Match Shapes

- Roll playdough into balls, then flatten them gently.
- Use your fingers to shape a circle, square, triangle, or other shape.
- Ask your child: “Can you make the same shape with another colour of playdough?”
- Name each shape and talk about how they’re the same or different.

Make It Even More Fun:

Make shape “cookies” and pretend to serve them on a plate. Count how many shapes you made in each colour. Use the shapes to build simple pictures - like a house, tree, or face!

Mix colours to explore new ones and talk about what you see.



Why it's great for learning:

Builds fine motor skills and hand strength

Supports shape and colour recognition

Encourages comparing and counting

Makes everyday play full of learning

Tip: Playdough is a great tool for quiet, focused play. You can also talk in your home language to help build vocabulary in both languages!

APPLE LADYBUG SNACK & STORY TIME

The *Apple Ladybug Snack* recipe is a fun, healthy way to explore food and creativity with your child. It also offers a chance to talk about nature and practice early science and language skills.

Try This: Make and Talk About Ladybugs

Use the *Apple Ladybug Snack* recipe on page 8 of the *WTK Family Cookbook*.

- As you prepare the snack together, talk about what a ladybug looks like:

“How many legs does a ladybug have?”

“What colour are their spots?”

- Count the number of raisins you use and name the parts of the ladybug as you go.



Make It Even More Fun:
 Draw a picture of your ladybug before or after you make it.
 Read a book or sing a song about bugs or insects.
 Go for a nature walk. Can you find a real ladybug?
 Make up a story about where your ladybug lives or what it likes to eat.

Did you know that lady bugs are actually called lady beetles? You can learn more about ladybugs by watching this video!





SING, MOVE AND EXPLORE

Welcome to Kindergarten™ has a selection of music for children and families to enjoy at home. One song, ***“Listen to the Water”***, encourages children to notice sounds, patterns, and movement in nature. Singing and moving to the rhythm of water builds listening, language, and early science skills.

Try This: Water Sound Walk & Song

- Listen to the song **“Listen to the Water”** with your child.
- Talk about the sounds water makes—splashing, dripping, rushing.
- Go for a walk near water (like a puddle, stream, or even a kitchen sink).
- Pause and ask: “What do you hear?” “What does the water sound like?”
- Sing the song together and move like water - sway, drip, splash, or swirl.



Make It Even More Fun:

Use cups, ladles, or spoons to play with water in the bath, sink, or a bin.



Add toys or sponges and ask: “Does it sink or float?”

Make “water music” using glasses with different water levels. Tap gently with a spoon!

Create your own verses to the song with what you hear: “I hear the raindrops, tap-tap-tap.”



Tip: Use your home language to talk about what you see and hear. Naming sounds and actions builds strong language skills in every language!

WTK MUSIC



MORE IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter.

You are receiving this newsletter because your child's school participates in the **Welcome to Kindergarten™** program.

You are your child's first and best teacher, so have fun talking, reading, creating and playing every day!

For more ideas, check out our future newsletters or our resource page at

<https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/resources/>



ABOUT WTK

Welcome to Kindergarten™ (WTK) supports new Kindergarten children and families, in warmly welcoming them to school. WTK offers high quality early learning materials and family support. All WTK activities and resources are based on current research and effective practice in early learning, transition to school, family engagement and community involvement.

Bienvenue à la maternelle®
ÉDUCA ENTREPÔT CANADA

Welcome to Kindergarten®
CANADIAN EDUCATION WAREHOUSE