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LEARNING THROUGH PLAY



Welcome to Kindergarten™
CANADIAN EDUCATION WAREHOUSE

Dear Kindergarten Families

Welcome to an exciting new chapter with your child - starting kindergarten! This is a big milestone for children—and for families, too. As your child begins to explore new routines, friendships, and learning experiences, there may be lots of excitement, questions, and a few butterflies along the way.

In this newsletter, you'll find simple ideas, helpful tips, and resources to support your child as they settle into school. Most importantly, remember that the everyday moments you share at home—talking, playing, reading, wondering, and laughing together—are powerful ways to help your child learn, grow, and feel confident as they begin their kindergarten journey.

Send us a photo of you trying out one of these activities or playing with items from your WTK kit. You could win one of our WTK books! We will draw with every newsletter! (Send photos to: **info@welcome-to-kindergarten.ca**)

Have fun playing together,

The WTK Team

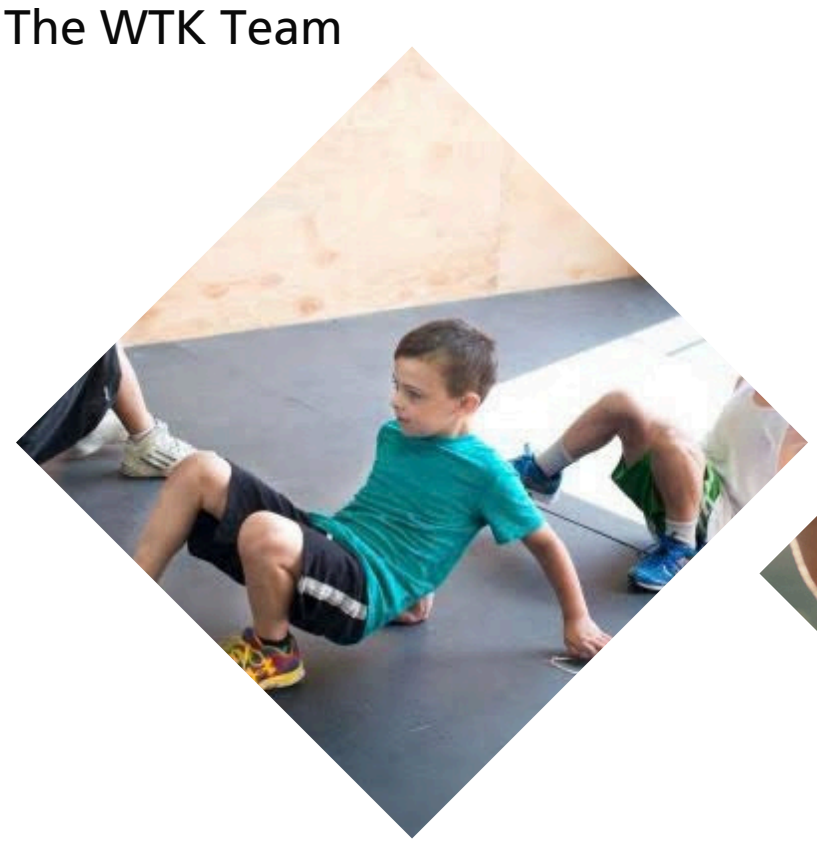




Table of Contents:

- **Hidden Treasure**
- **Exploring Math Together**
- **Crab Walk Race!**
- **Turn-Taking: A Simple Skill That Builds Big Strengths**
- **Making Music**
- **Curiosity in Everyday Moments**
- **Collage Art**

Hidden Treasure



Here is a fun way to practice identifying letters and/or sounds!

What you need:





- 4 - 5 cups or bowls.
- WTK magnetic letters.
- One small object (e.g., pompom, beads).

Place the cups/bowls upside down and secretly hide the small object under one of the cups/bowls. Place one magnetic letter on each of the cups/bowls (or in front).

Your child guesses which cup the object is under by saying the letter name or the letter sound.

Reveal! Did they guess correctly? If not, try again.

Take turns finding the object!



*Add or remove cups to increase or decrease the difficulty of this game.

Exploring Math Together



Children need practice counting to fully understand number concepts. Let’s start with our fingers!

- Hold your hands behind your back. Together with your child chant: “Fingers, fingers, 1, 2, 3. How many fingers do you see?” (Using two hands, hold up four fingers).
- Children can say ‘four’ or show four with their fingers.
- Vary how you show each number on your fingers. Example: five can be two and three fingers or one and four fingers.

It is important to show five in many ways before slowly moving up to 10.



Math Around Us

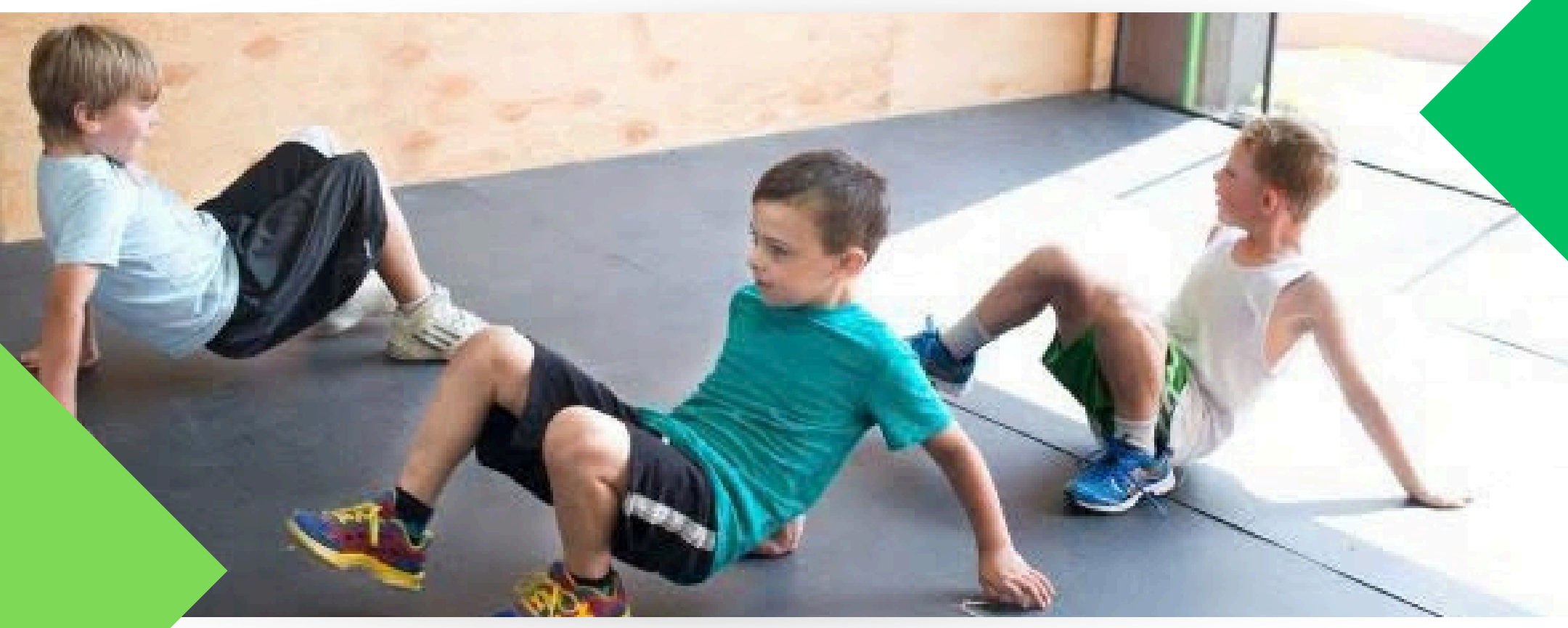
Counting is an important math concept for children.

- Make a habit of counting things in everyday life. For example, count your steps and the stairs you climb, count socks, count the blue cars you see on the street.
- Measure and count while you cook or bake. Bath time is a great time for measuring.
- Build things together; count as you go along. Use comparison words, like taller, shorter, longer, etc. Try different shapes to see which ones work.
- While reading, count the animals or people on the page and notice the page numbers.

There are lots of counting books you can read with your child!



Crab Walk Race!



Place a basket of small toys (stuffed animals or beanbags) at one end of the room and an empty basket at the other.

Have your child sit on their bottoms, place their hands on the floor behind them, and lift their hips into a tabletop position like a crab. They place one of the small toys on their belly and move backward or forward to transport it to the empty basket.

Set a timer and see how many toys they can transfer in that amount of time.

Try working together to transfer all of the toys in the set time or compete against each other!



Alternative:

If crab walking is too difficult try having your child get in the crab position and kick out their legs one at a time. Make it a counting game. Can they kick 5 times in a row? 10? This will help build their strength to move towards crab walking.

Turn-Taking:

A Simple Skill That Builds Big Strengths



Sharing, waiting, and taking turns don't always come naturally to little ones — but they're powerful skills that help children learn self-regulation and cooperation. These activities make practicing those skills fun and playful.

Try These at Home

Build a tower together:
Take turns adding blocks and celebrate how tall it gets.



Do a puzzle as a team:
Let your child place a piece, then you place one, and keep the rhythm going.



Play a simple board game:
Even short games help kids learn to wait, watch, and cheer others on (Look for the game Walk on in the WTK Chirp Magazine).



Mirror Game:
Stand face-to-face. One person moves slowly while the other copies every motion like a reflection. Then switch roles.



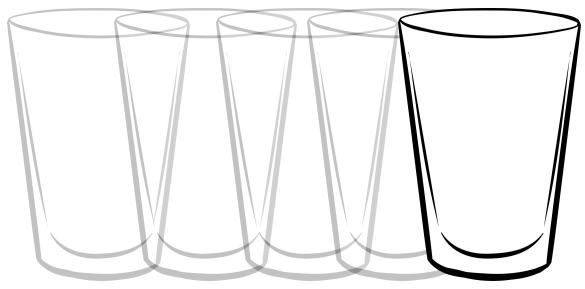
Making Music



Become a musician while being a scientist!

What you need:

1. A few glasses/jars - roughly the same size.
2. Water.
3. Spoon or stick to tap the glasses with.





Fill each glass/jar with different amounts of water.

Have your child tap each glass and listen to the sound it makes. What do they notice?

Which glasses have the highest sound? Lowest? What do you notice about the sound and the amount of water?



Encourage your child to create their own masterpiece of sound!

Curiosity in Everyday Moments



Taking a quiet moment outdoors with your child can open up a world of discovery. Try creating a simple observation circle using a hula hoop, stones, or sticks. Set it on the ground and spend a few minutes exploring what's inside.

- Look closely together: What tiny details can you both spot?
- Notice movement: Are insects crawling, leaves fluttering, shadows shifting?
- Explore colours and textures: What shades, shapes, or patterns stand out?
- Talk about discoveries: Encourage your child to describe what they see and wonder about







Why It Matters

Building the habit of noticing strengthens early scientific thinking and boosts language development. Children learn to observe, describe, compare, and ask questions — all essential skills for learning and for life.

Collage Art



This form of art encourages young children to use their imagination freely, make their own decisions, build fine motor skills and experiment with colours and textures.

What you need:

- Sturdy piece of paper or flat cardboard (e.g., cereal box).
- Recycled materials from inside or outside (e.g., paper scraps, bits of fabric, yarn, plastic lids, cut up egg cartons, toilet paper rolls, tissue and wrapping paper, leaves, pine needles, small pinecones etc).
- Glue.







Have the materials laid out for your child to examine and touch. They begin to create their art by selecting a material and gluing it to their cardboard. They may have a design in mind or it will develop as they create.







Let their imagination run wild!

About us

Welcome to Kindergarten™

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

WTK Contest



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