

# Getting Started

Kindergarten Registration  
&  
Kindergarten Readiness



**Mother Teresa Catholic School**

All 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 at Sunday School.

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 dance 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.

Beware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam  
cup: The

roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how  
or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in  
the

Styrofoam cup--they all die. So do we.

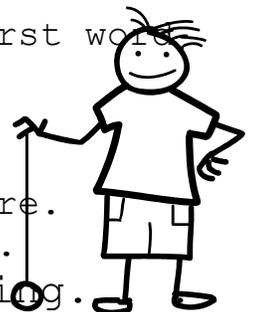
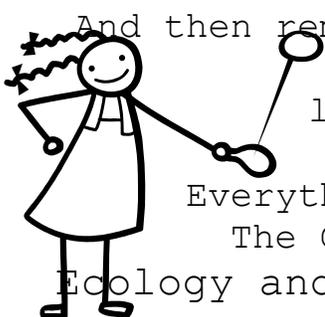
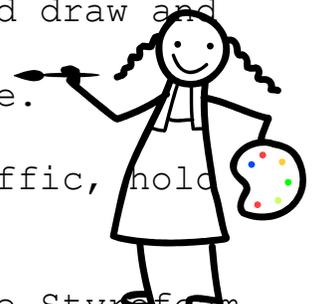
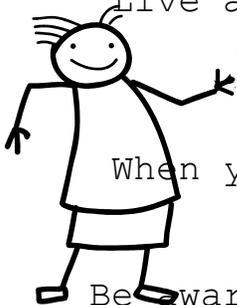
And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first words  
you

learned--the biggest word of all--LOOK.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere.

The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation.

Ecology and politics and equality and sane living.



. . . And it is still true, no matter how old  
you are When you go out into the world, it is  
best to hold hands and stick together.

Robert Fulghum

# Welcome to Mother Teresa Catholic School

## Kindergarten Information and Registration

### *Registration Check List:*

- Child's Baptismal Certificate (if applicable)
- Child's Birth Certificate ~ **Must turn 5 before December 31**
- Registration Fee + Supply Fee
- Transportation Forms
- F.O.I.P.P./Internet forms
- Non-Catholic Interview (if Non-Catholic family)
- Alberta Health Services Consent Card for Screening Tests
- Kindergarten School Year Calendar

If you are not Catholic, you need to arrange an interview time with the School Administration. Please sign up at the office for an interview time, Thank you.

### Kindergarten Supply List

- 1 ~ Backpack and Lunch Kit
- 2 ~ Boxes of Kleenex
- 1 ~ box of Large Ziploc bags
- 1 ~ 1 ~ pair indoor non-marking runners (these stay at school)
- 1 ~ change of clothes in labeled zip-lock bag
- \$25 ~ this is a supply fee and all of the pencils, crayons, erasers, markers, scribblers, paper, scissors, scrapbooks and binders are supplied by the school

### Montessori Kindergarten Supply List

- 1 ~ Backpack and Lunch Kit
- 2 ~ Boxes of Kleenex
- 3 ~ Containers of Wipes (Baby Wipes)
- 2 ~ boxes of Large Ziploc bags
- 1 ~ Headphones (ex: earbuds)
- 1 ~ 1 ~ pair indoor non-marking shoes (these stay at school)
- 1 ~ change of clothes in labeled zip-lock bag
- \$25 ~ this is a supply fee and all of the pencils, crayons, erasers, markers, scribblers, paper, scissors, scrapbooks and binders are supplied by the school

**Busing** ~ Bus route details will be in the Daily Herald Tribune at the end of August, or you can call First Student at 780 - 532 - 3545.

# Kindergarten Learning Principles

(from Alberta Learning's Kindergarten Program Statement)

---

---

1. Young children learn best when programming meets their developmental needs.
2. Young children develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that prepare them for later learning.
3. Young children with special needs, through early intervention strategies, develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that prepare them for later learning.
4. Young children build a common set of experiences through interaction with others.
5. Parents have the opportunity for meaningful involvement with their young children.
6. Coordinated community services meet the needs of young children and their families.

# Help Your Child Prepare For The Transition to Kindergarten

---

At Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools we are excited about having your child in our Catholic Schools. Making sure all students start school ready to learn is an important goal. This is a tip sheet to make sure that your child gets off to a good start.

## Make the Big Day a Happy One

School will be an exciting experience, but it is difficult to be away from home and may be a little scary for your child. Here are some ways you can make the first day a happy one:

- ✦ Focus on the positive. Talk openly about your child's feelings.
- ✦ Remind your child that the first day is just a few hours and you will be with them the whole time.
- ✦ Contact First Student to sign-up for their First Ride program. 780-532-3545
- ✦ Make your child feel more secure. Walk or drive the bus route your child will take to school, especially in the days leading up to the first full day of school.
- ✦ Security also comes from knowing what to do in an emergency. Tell your child what to do when hurt, scared or when help is needed finding the bathroom.
- ✦ Establish a routine. For a week before school, practice getting up at the new time and getting ready for school.

## Help your child understand the concept of time

Young children often have trouble with the concept of time. Your child may not know what "a few hours" means. Here are some ideas to help your child learn about the time spent in school.

- ✦ Draw a clock. Talk about what your child does at various times each day and color in the time spent on each activity.
- ✦ Draw another clock. Fill in the hours that will be spent in school.
- ✦ In another color, show any time that will be spent in the child care after school.
- ✦ Have your child color in the days of the week on a calendar.

## Kindergarten is easier when children have some basic skills.

### Your child should:

- ✦ Know how to write their name, and recognize it when it is written out
- ✦ Be able to put on and off their shoes, coat and boots, know how to zip, snap and button
- ✦ Be able to use the bathroom and wash their hands independently
- ✦ Know how to cooperate and share with other children through taking turns and negotiating

## **You Can Help Your Child Develop Language Skills**

Another way you can help your child do better in school is by working on language skills. Experts agree that language is the key to learning. Here are some ways you can help your child develop language skills.

- ✦ Talking about things you see and familiar items in your home. Try to spend about 30 minutes a day talking with and listening to your child
- ✦ Helping your child to learn the words that will be read some day. A child who has seen airplane for example, will be more likely to understand words like airport and travel. So when reading if there is a word that you think they might not understand stop and talk about the word or have them put up their hand when you read something they don't understand. A child cannot comprehend what they do not understand. Words need to be defined.
- ✦ Buy or make hand puppets. Then help your child put on a puppet show of a favorite story.
- ✦ Reading aloud to your child everyday. Your reading time doesn't have to be long - 10 or 15 minutes each day is fine, but it's important that reading is a regular part of your day.

## **Play Time Is Learning Time**

To a child there is nothing as exciting, or as much fun, as learning something new. Here are some fun things you can do with your child to prepare for kindergarten:

- ✦ Look for shapes. You might say, "I see a blue square. Can you find it?" Your child can ask you to find the next item.
- ✦ Cook together. Basic math skills can be taught through measuring ingredients.
- ✦ Fill your sink with water. Let your child find the objects that sink and some that float.
- ✦ Give your child opportunities to finger paint, colour, draw, cut and glue.

## **Kindergarten Early Literacy Program**

The Kindergarten Early Literacy program is a class-based program that allows teachers to meet the early literacy needs of kindergarten students in a variety of formats (individual, small group and whole class) based on student need.

### **Goals of the Kindergarten Early Literacy Program**

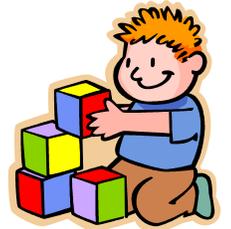
- ✦ To ensure that students exit kindergarten familiar with the structural elements and organization of print
- ✦ To ensure students are familiar with the form and format of books and other print resources
- ✦ To demonstrate competence in alphabetic knowledge
- ✦ To demonstrate competence in age appropriate phonemic knowledge (rhyming, word segmentation, etc.)
- ✦ To establish the perspective and attitude in each student that he/she can successfully interact with, control and manipulate print in order to communicate with others

# Kindergarten Readiness

The Kindergarten program places importance on the whole child (social, physical, intellectual, creative, emotional and spiritual). Although it is not expected that your child has mastered the skills listed below, it is to their advantage they have a good grasp of them as the more confident he/she is, the greater the enjoyment of the activities.



Listed below are things that your child should be able to do before entering Kindergarten.



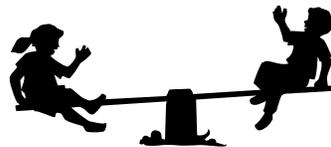
- Print their first and last name with the first letter capital and all others lowercase.
- Count to 10
- Recite the alphabet (remembering to break apart L-M-N-O-P)
- Name the 10 basic colors - (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, black, and white)
- Tie their shoes
- Manage self-help skills: zipping, snapping, buckling and buttoning
- Take care of their bathroom needs
- Wash their hands properly

**Throughout the Kindergarten year, we will work hard at having your child master the following:**

1. Shape recognition
2. Number recognition
3. Letter recognition
4. Letter sound recognition
5. Recognizing basic sight words from the reading curriculum
6. Printing letters
7. Practicing pencil skills, coloring and using scissors
8. Listen to a story without interrupting
9. Correctly retell a story
10. Write letters or words to tell about pictures that he/she draws.

# Excellent Learning Activities for Your Child

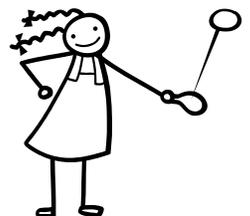
1. Books, books and more books. Read to them and with them.
2. Discuss the stories with your child. Ask them the 5 W questions, "Who is in the story, Where did the story take place, When did the story take place, Why or What happened in the story and How the problems in the story were resolved."
3. Let your child be responsible for jobs around home. This allows them to develop a sense of responsibility, ownership and independence
4. Have fun playing games and cards. A deck of cards is a wonderful tool for learning counting, sorting, and ordering numbers. Your child will also be learning how to take turns and play fairly.
5. Listen to your child and expect them to listen to you. If they won't listen to you, they will have trouble listening to the adults at school as well.
6. Recite and sing favorite nursery rhymes and songs. Talk about the words, what they mean and if they rhyme
7. Talk with your child as if they were an adult. This provides a strong language model for them to follow. Discourage "baby talk".
8. Have an art box or cupboard available for them to explore. Include: crayons, glue sticks, tape, paper, paints, scissors, play dough, pencils and interesting writing supplies
9. Play counting games, rhyming games and sound games as you travel in the car.
10. Arrange for your child to play with other children his or her age.
11. Make activities hands on. String cheerios, buttons or beads. Sort clothing, buttons or coins. Color drawings. Cook Jello, popcorn, and cookies. Trace hands and feet, shapes, cookie cutters and blocks.



## Kindergarten Activities Calendar

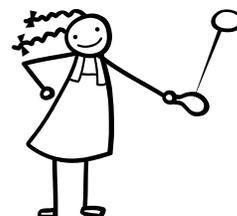
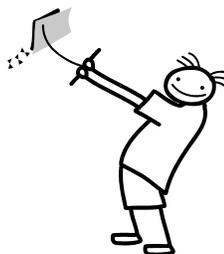
# June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
String 10 cheerios onto a piece of string	Draw your family	Count to 10. Draw 10 things	Draw something you did today.	Smile at someone you know today. Tell them about your favorite story.	Find a big rock and a small rock outside	Set the table. 1 of everything for each person
Print your first name	Find 6 circles in the house	Zip your coat. Tie your shoes.	Say your first name and your last name.	Practice answering the phone.	Learn your phone number.	How many pennies is five cents?
Trace your hands and feet on paper.	Sort the money in your piggy bank or in your Mom's purse.	Make a Father's Day Card	Sort the silverware in the drawer.	Go for a walk with an adult and count all the dogs that you see.	Throw a ball with a friend	Sing the ABC song
Walk backwards down your driveway.	Build something with lego or blocks	Name 5 things that rhyme with cat	Tie your shoes and someone else's	March around your house. Count your steps.	Practice saying your name and phone number.	Set the table and count the items out loud
Pour your own milk or juice	Skip around the house. Count your steps.	String 10 cheerios onto a piece of string	Draw your family	Count to 10. Draw 10 things.	Draw something you did today.	Smile at someone you know today. Tell them about your favorite story.



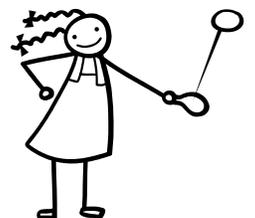
# July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Print your first and last names	Go for a walk. Count all the birds you see.	Look at a magazine. Point at letters and name them	Count to ten. Practice backwards from ten to zero	Draw something you did during the day	Celebrate Canada Day!	Sing the ABC song
Draw a picture of five boys.	Count out ten of anything!	Give each person in your family a small rock.	Print your first and last name	Draw a picture of Mom and Dad. Print mom and dad.	Tie your shoes	Find 6 triangles in our house.
Practice your phone number	Print five letters of the alphabet.	Count out enough pennies to make a nickel	Trace an adult's hand. Print a number on each finger.	Draw and color a picture for mom.	Name and cut out letters from a magazine	Name the colors of flowers that you see outside
Sort your toys (or something according to color)	Sing the "abc" song	Play outside	Build something with blocks. Tell someone what you built	Name five things that rhyme with mat	Print five different letters of the alphabet	Practice saying your phone number
Set the table and count the number of items	Skip down the driveway. Count the number of steps you took.	Draw a picture. Tell your mom a sentence about your picture	Print your first and last names			



# August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Draw a picture of 3 cats and 2 dogs	Sing the "abc" song	Count to ten. Practice backwards from ten to zero	Print your first and last names	Practice your phone number	Tie your shoes	Walk or drive to the school. Walk around the school yard
Cut out blue pictures from a magazine	Print your name and your phone number	Practice five letters of the alphabet. Say words that start with those letters	Make five rhyming words with bed	Cut out yellow pictures from a magazine	Draw a picture. Tell an adult a sentence about your picture.	Practice naming colors
Name pictures in a magazine. Tell what letter the word starts with.	Tie your shoes	Walk or drive to the school or bus stop.	Cut out green pictures from a magazine	Make five rhyming words with pot	Count ten pennies	Tell five words that rhyme with at
Draw a picture for your new teacher	Find ten different colors in your house. Name them	Count ten objects. Draw a picture of them	Walk or drive to your new school or bus stop	Practice printing your name and phone number	Draw a picture of your family and label the picture with their names.	Practice walking or driving to your new school or bus stop.
Practice your Phone Number	Learn your address	Count out 10 pennies				



# Additional Information

- This is a teacher led program. A teaching assistant will depend on the learning needs of the classroom. If there is a need, a special needs assistant will also be a part of the classroom. As well speech language programs will be included for those children that are determined to need extra help in speech development.
- Alberta Health Care does not come into the school and screen all kindergarten children for hearing, as was the practice in the past. Classroom teachers now will forward children that they see to have concerns and the Health Unit will see those children during school.
- It is recommended to all Kindergarten parents to have their children's eyes examined by an optometrist before entering school.
- Your child's first day of school will be on his/her staggered entry time. A letter will be sent home in June with your child's staggered entry time.
- Staggered Entry takes place the first two or three days of the school year. You and your child will come to school for a short period. There will be a small group of children at each time slot for your child to meet as well as an introduction of the school as a whole. We do a tour and meet the librarian, music teacher and office staff. It allows the children to make some friends and get acquainted with the teachers and the classroom before the whole group attends.
- The Kindergarten school calendar for the year will be sent home with your Staggered Entry information. It can also be viewed on the Catholic School Board website: [www.gpcsd.ca](http://www.gpcsd.ca)
- Included is a calendar of activities to do each day during the summer if you need some ideas.

We look forward to the upcoming school year!

If you have any questions Please do not hesitate to call the school at

814-9732 or

email: [motherteresa@gpcsd.ca](mailto:motherteresa@gpcsd.ca)

