

EVERY DAY!

DEAR KINDERGARTEN FAMILY,

Welcome to Issue 3! We hope that you are enjoying the various **Learning through Play** activities at home and have checked out our Blog. In this issue, you will find activities to enjoy with your child as you talk, read, create and play, everyday! Soon, you will receive an invitation to attend a Welcome to Kindergarten family orientation session at the school. At that session, you will receive a bag of learning resources, which you can explore with your child as you both look forward to Kindergarten!

The WTK Team

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Talking And Reading Together



Rhyme time

Hearing rhymes in words is important for learning to read.

- Try singing songs, reading poems and making up your own rhymes (e.g., The fat cat is wearing a hat).
- Many of the Welcome to Kindergarten songs rhyme. Check out the WTK music at

<https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/ten-fun-interactive-songs>



*Hey diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed,
to see such sport
and the dish ran away with the spoon.*



WHY IT MATTERS

Reading provides children with a wide range of ideas, views and experiences.



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Exploring Math Together



Fingers, fingers!

Children need experience 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 three fingers.
- Children can say 'three' or show three 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.



WHY IT MATTERS

Math helps children build confidence and make sense of the world around them.

Math Around Us

Counting on 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.



Patterning



- Look for collections of objects in your house, for example: rocks/ gems, clothespins, blocks, cars/trucks, beads, buttons, animal figures...
- Create patterns using these items. For example, make a patterned necklace using beads and string: red bead, blue bead, yellow bead, red bead...
- You can make patterns with your body (e.g., clap, hop, clap, hop).



WHY IT MATTERS

Children build science and math skills when they sort, compare, measure, describe and predict.

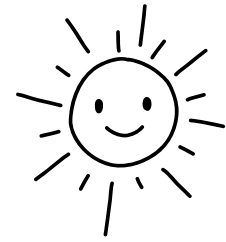
Finding letters & numbers in nature!

Letters and numbers can be found everywhere in the world around you. You can also use everyday objects to recreate letters and tell stories.

- Walk around your community and point out all the letters and numbers you can see.
- Use sticks, leaves, petals, etc. to form different numbers, letters and words (e.g., your child's name).
- Draw or take pictures of the letters and numbers you find or make.



Playing Outdoors Together



Mud pies

- Add some water to dirt to make your own mud.
- Explore the mud with your hands – mould and shape it.
- Find some treasures to add to your mud pie!



WHY IT MATTERS

Fresh air and movement supports problem- solving, independence, creativity, and physical development.

Creative Exploration

Collage

- Collage is a fun art experience using various types of materials such as newspaper, magazines and recycled materials.
- Encourage your child to create art by gluing smaller pieces of torn paper onto a larger piece.
- Use outdoor collections like twigs, petals and leaves to create a nature collage.
- Use your imaginations and have fun creating original art together!



WHY IT MATTERS

Children develop independence, problem- solving and thinking skills through creative exploration. They develop and express their unique personalities when they create.



Exploring Feelings Together



Calming Kit

- Gather items that help your child feel calm, such as a squeeze ball, a small stuffy, a favourite book, a family picture, fidget toys etc.
- Put these items in a box or bag that can be easily accessed by your child.
- Encourage your child to use these calming materials when they are feeling sad or upset.



WHY IT MATTERS

When we talk about feelings with children, they learn to understand the feelings of others and to manage their feelings.

TALKING AND SINGING BUILDS:

- relationships
- enjoyment of music
- memory
- listening & speaking skills
- rhythm & rhyme
- an appreciation for cultural
- belonging
- stories & oral traditions

PLAYING BUILDS:

- decision-making skills
- self-awareness & regulation
- cooperation
- math concepts & vocabulary
- physical skills
- confidence & well-being
- curiosity
- empathy & understanding

CREATING BUILDS:

- problem-solving skills
- imagination & personal expression
- small & large muscle control and coordination
- measurement, geometry & spatial sense

READING BUILDS:

- vocabulary
- a sense of story
- knowledge
- print, letter & number awareness

**YOU ARE YOUR
CHILD'S FIRST AND
BEST TEACHER!**

- **Follow** your child's lead as you play and discover together
- **Talk and read** with your child in your first language
- **Help** your child to share and take turns
- **Encourage** your child to make choices and decisions
- **Celebrate** your child's learning



MORE RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter.
You are receiving this newsletter because your child's school participates in the Welcome to Kindergarten™ Program.

Many other resources can be found on our blog! Check it out regularly to discover extra tips on how you can support your child's development.

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

EXPLORE MORE RESOURCES HERE

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



About Welcome to Kindergarten™

Welcome to Kindergarten™ is a registered Canadian trademark of Canadian Education Warehouse.

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.

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