



FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR- AND FIVE-YEAR-OLDS: time to learn, grow and play

In September 2010, the Ontario government began phasing in full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds. In the first year, nearly 600 schools offered full-day kindergarten, with the number of schools increasing every year. Now, all four- and five-year olds in Ontario have access to full-day kindergarten.

Here's what you can expect:

Enhanced learning during the school day

- Teachers and early childhood educators work together in the classroom to help young children learn and grow. This team approach brings out the best in your child through activities and play, guided by a curriculum developed specifically for full-day kindergarten.

Before- and after-school programs

- Where there is demand, before- and after-school programs are offered during the school year. The programs are optional and available at reasonable rates. Subsidies are available through the municipality for families who qualify, based on financial need.
- Where there is enough parent interest and board capacity, boards are encouraged to provide programs for kindergarten children at other times of the year, such as PD days, school breaks and holidays.

A stronger foundation for learning

- Research shows that early learning has long-term benefits for a child's academic and social skills. A full day of learning early in life can make the transition to Grade 1 easier – for you and your child. It can also improve your child's reading, writing and math skills – in school and in life.

Learning through play is supported by science

- In full-day kindergarten, children learn through play. Research has shown the benefits that play can have on a child's development. The exploration, thinking, problem solving and language expression that occurs when children play influences and develops their brains. When children play, it helps to stimulate their imagination, encourages creative problem solving, and helps develop confidence and a positive attitude toward learning.

Good for children, good for parents, good for Ontario

Full-day kindergarten is now available to all four- and five-year olds, which may save families up to \$6,500 per child per year on child care costs.

Innovative programs such as full-day kindergarten are helping our students achieve excellence, a key goal of Ontario's renewed vision for education. Learn more at Ontario.ca/eduvision.

Learn more

For more information,
please visit
ontario.ca/kindergarten

or call:

Toll-free in Ontario,
1-800-387-5514

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from outside Ontario,
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