

Welcome to KinderStart 2011-12!

The Division of Early Childhood Learning, Department of Education is pleased to welcome you and your child to the KinderStart program. These KinderStart sessions will allow your child to experience what it is like to be in a kindergarten classroom the year before school begins. This will help with the transition to school. As a parent, you will also participate in parent sessions where you will receive information on how to support your child's learning at home and get to know other KinderStart parents.

A KinderStart resource bag is provided to you and your child with a variety of materials for use at home. These materials have been selected by a group of Kindergarten teachers and early childhood educators throughout the province to promote early learning opportunities the year before school begins. Your child will receive the resource bag and materials from their teacher during their KinderStart year. Please note that your child may receive the KinderStart resource bag with all the materials on the first day or your child's teacher may pass out select materials at each session. Either way, by the end of the KinderStart year, your child should have all of the materials listed below.

Resource bag materials include:

- **Welcome letter**
- **Children's books: *Chicken, Pig, Cow* by Ruth Ohi and *The Handiest Things in the World* by Andrew Clements**
- **Bag of plastic farm animals (e.g., chicken, pig, cow and a dog)**
- **Bag of craft sticks (100 sticks)**
- **Activity mat (for use with messy activities such as clay and paints)**
- **Pad of Crayola construction paper (multi-coloured)**
- **Crayola modeling clay**
- **Crayola watercolour paint set (8 colours)**
- **Crayola crayons (8 piece package)**
- **Pencil**
- **Pencil sharpener**
- **Child-safe scissors**
- **Glue stick**
- **Eraser**
- **3"x 3" pad of Post-It Notes**
- **Clip board**
- **Ideas for using KinderStart learning materials at home:**
 - activity sheet for *Chicken, Pig, Cow*
 - activity sheet for *The Handiest Things in the World*
 - tip sheet with ideas for the activity mat
- **KinderStart journal**
- ***Play Counts – Enjoy mathematics with your child* (math pamphlet for parents of young children)**
- **Information from the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries Board including a flyer to receive two additional, FREE KinderStart books**

If you have any questions regarding the KinderStart program or the materials provided in the resource bag you may contact your child's Kindergarten teacher, our office at telephone number (709) 729-2733 or visit the Department of Education's website at:

<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/earlychildhood/kinderstart.html>.