

Kindergarten Program

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is an educational program provided by all primary schools in Newfoundland and Labrador which introduces young children to formal education.

The Kindergarten Program, as described in *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide*, is designed to support the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and moral development of the four and five year old child.

Inherent in the kindergarten program is the recognition that children are individuals. Each child is unique and the diverse needs and developmental levels of children can be accommodated through developmentally appropriate practices.

The Kindergarten Program provides for integrated and discrete learning in: language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, health, physical education, and religious education. Kindergarten experiences must lay the foundation for future learning by:

- creating a love of learning
- helping children become more effective problem solvers, observers, listeners, speakers, and thinkers in a language-rich and play-based environment
- helping children gain increasing independence through exploring, questioning, and understanding
- providing for a balance of child-centred and teacher-directed experiences
- providing for meaningful and appropriate curriculum connections
- facilitating the development of the skills and concepts necessary to experience success
- supporting the development of a positive self concept
- supporting the involvement of parents

Recommended Time Allotments

All subject areas make an important contribution to literacy and numeracy in the primary grades. While 40% of instructional time in the kindergarten school year is identified for language arts and 30% for mathematics and science, at least 5% of the time allotment for language arts as well as 5% of the time allotment for mathematics would be achieved while teaching the other subject areas. In other words, teachers also teach language arts and mathematics outcomes during the 40% of instructional time allocated to social studies, religious education, health, art, music, and physical education.

Language arts and mathematics outcomes are often integrated into the teaching of other subject areas through a cross-curricular approach. Similarly, outcomes of various subject areas are frequently integrated into the teaching of language arts and mathematics.

Organisational and instructional strategies employed by kindergarten teachers (e.g., integrated learning experiences, learning centres, blocked-time approach to scheduling) make it difficult to determine exact percentages of time spent on the various curriculum areas. Thus, the time allotments recommended above should be viewed as approximations.

Multi-age Classrooms

Time allotments for multi-age classrooms are the same as those recommended for single-grade classrooms. Organisational and instructional strategies, which are helpful in multi-age classrooms, include interdisciplinary learning, use of learning centres, peer tutoring, and block scheduling.

Kinder Start

The *Kinder Start* Program is a provincial transition-to-school orientation program for children and their parents/caregivers. The objective of the program is to help all children and their families connect with the school and to provide resources for them to use at home during the prekindergarten year. The program is based on developmentally appropriate practices for the prekindergarten child and consists of eight in-school sessions and accompanying information for principals, parents/caregivers and teachers. An activity bag of supplies and resources is provided for each parent/caregiver and child.

Authorized Learning Resources

Kinder Start materials that have been provided to kindergarten teachers (one set per teacher) include:

- ▶ **Child-Parent/Caregiver Kinder Start Bag**
 - Kinder Start bag
 - *Chicken, Pig, Cow* by Ruth Ohi
 - *The Handiest Things in the World* by Andrew Clements
 - A bag containing plastic manipulatives of a chicken, pig, cow and a dog
 - 1 Activity Mat (for use with activities such as clay and paints)
 - Crayola Modelling Clay
 - 1 pad of Crayola Construction Paper (multi-coloured)
 - Crayola crayons (8 piece package)
 - Crayola Watercolour paint set (8 colours)
 - 1 clipboard
 - pencil sharpener
 - pencil
 - child-safe scissors
 - glue stick
 - eraser
 - 3" x 3" pad of Post-It Notes
 - Kinder Start journal

- Ideas for Using Kinder Start 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.
 - 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 received two additional, FREE Kinder Start books
 - Letter of welcome from the Department of Education for the 2011-2012 Kinder Start program.
- **Teacher Kinder Start Bag**
- *Chicken, Pig, Cow* by Ruth Ohi
 - *The Handiest Things in the World* by Andrew Clements
 - A bag containing plastic manipulatives of a chicken, pig, cow and a dog
 - 1 bag of craft sticks (100 sticks)
 - 1 Activity Mat (for use with activities such as clay and paints)
 - Ideas for Using Kinder Start 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.
 - Play Counts – Enjoy mathematics with your child
(math pamphlet for parents of young children)
 - Kinder Start certificate for each child
 - Information from the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries Board Kinder Start initiative.
 - Letter of welcome from the Department of Education for the 2011-2012 Kinder Start program.

Art

Kindergarten students learn how to think and work as artists by exploring, analysing, and reflecting on the creative process and by viewing and producing various forms of art consisting of a collection of traditional and unconventional materials.

The language and concepts of the fundamental elements and principles of design are the integral aspects of the kindergarten Art curriculum. Students explore the design elements of line, shape, form, colour, space, and texture and the principles of pattern, repetition, balance, movement, unity, and contrast.

The Art curriculum reflects the interests of the kindergarten learner and topics that are pertinent to their needs. The learning resources offer a variety of children's and professional artists' art making experiences that present many opportunities for students to respond to art in a variety of contexts through their exploration of the cultural heritage and identities of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, and the world.

Authorized Learning Resources

- ▶ *A Curriculum Guide for Primary Art*, (2008)
- ▶ *Explorations in Art: Teacher Guide*, (2008)
- ▶ *Explorations in Art: Big Art Book*, (2008)

Core French

Please refer to the primary section of this *Program of Studies* for K-3 French.

English Language Arts

The Kindergarten English Language Arts curriculum provides for growth in all aspects of each child's language development. It includes many opportunities for experimenting, observing, thinking, playing, talking, listening, reading, viewing, and writing.

The English Language Arts curriculum supports literacy development through both integrated experiences and the teaching of discrete skills in listening, speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and representing.

Authorized Learning Resources

- ▶ English Language Arts, *Kindergarten Curriculum Guide*, Interim Edition (2011)
- ▶ *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010)

Supplementary Learning Resources

Bold print Kids Anthologies (Levels A-B) 4 copies of each of the following 10 titles:

<i>Whats Your Name?</i>	<i>"A" is for Apple</i>
<i>Where's the Bear?</i>	<i>All Together</i>
<i>Vroom! Vroom!</i>	<i>Brrrr!"</i>
<i>Splish! Splash!</i>	<i>How Much?</i>
<i>Moo! Baa! Oink!</i>	<i>Me Too!</i>

BoldPrint Kids Graphic Readers (Levels A-B) 1 copy of the following 20 titles:

<i>Too Many Apples</i>	<i>Time to Go Home</i>	<i>Wait for the Weekend</i>
<i>Drip Drop</i>	<i>Goldilocks Goes Shopping</i>	<i>The Missing Ball</i>
<i>Button Me Up</i>	<i>Hey Diddle, Diddle</i>	<i>Around the Town</i>
<i>The Pancake</i>	<i>Simon Says</i>	<i>Leaf to Leaf</i>
<i>Move over</i>	<i>Silly Willy</i>	<i>I spy</i>
<i>Teddy Bear Fair</i>	<i>What Will I Be?</i>	<i>Copy Cat</i>
<i>No, Milo!</i>	<i>The Magic Box</i>	

Project X (Levels A-C) 1 copy of the following 9 titles:

<i>A Home for Ted</i>	<i>Hamster on the Run</i>
<i>In the Home</i>	<i>Jet's Family</i>
<i>Go to Bed</i>	<i>Ducks</i>
<i>Pickles' New Home</i>	<i>My Cat Stripes</i>
<i>A Dog's Day</i>	

- *Learning to Read with Graphic Power* by David Booth and Larry Swartz
- *26 Alphabet Sounds Teaching Tubs*

- 26 Matching Washable Alphabet Puppet Set
- 1 Audio CD including songs suggested in the 6 Nelson Literacy Kindergarten NL Edition Kits
- 6 Nelson Literacy Kindergarten Cross-Curricular NL Edition Kits
Each kit includes 2 graphic organizers, 1 theme poster, 5 shared reading cards, 2 poetry/song posters, 1 Digital Resource DVD, 1 teacher guide, 1 kit bag, 12 photo cards and 4 read aloud picture books which are listed below:

Look at Me

Willow Whispers by Lana Button (2010)

Knuffle Bunny Free by Mo Willems, (2010)

Yoko Writes her Name by Rosemary Wells (2008)

Little Mouse Gets Ready by Jeff Smith (2009)

What Is It Made Of?

Not a Box by Antoinette Portis (2007)

An Island Grows by Lola Schaefer (2006)

What Am I? by Linda Granfield (2007)

My Mom Loves Me More Than Sushi by Filomena Gomes (2006)

Living Things in the Environment

City Dog, Country Frog by Mo Willems (2010)

How to Heal a Broken Wing by Bob Graham (2008)

Birds by Kevin Henkes (2009)

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox (2008)

How Do Things Move?

Higher Higher by Leslie Patricelli (2009)

Caramba by Marie Louise Gay

Trainstop by Barbara Lehman (2008)

Lilly and Lucy's Shadow by Christopher Aslan Kennedy (2006)

Getting Along

Sophie Peterman Tells the Truth by Sarah Weeks (2009)

Otis by Loren Long (2009)

Leonardo the Terrible Monster by Mo Willems (2005)

One by Kathryn Otoshi (2008)

My Community

In My Backyard by Margriet Ruurs (2007)

Jake Starts School by Michael Wright (2008)

I like to Play by Marla Stewart Konrad (2009)

Miss Fox's Class Goes Green by Eileen Spinelli (2009)

Health

Authorized Learning Resources

Supplementary Learning Resources

The Kindergarten Health curriculum is designed to connect the daily needs, interests, and experiences of the Kindergarten child to healthy practices.

- ▶ *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010)
- ▶ Big Book:
 - *I Keep Myself Healthy*
 - *I Keep Myself Safe*
 - *Let's Eat!*
 - *I Learn with My Senses*
- ▶ Little Books, sets of 6:
 - *I Keep Myself Healthy*
 - *I Keep Myself Safe*
 - *Let's Eat!*
 - *I Learn with My Senses*
- ▶ Teacher Guides:
 - *Health, Hygiene and Nutrition*
 - *Catch a Brain Wave Fitness Fun*
- ▶ CD's:
 - *Catch a Brain Wave Fitness Fun*
 - *Circle Time Activities*
- ▶ Photographic Learning Cards:
 - *People In My Neighbourhood*
 - *Emotions*
- ▶ Play Food Classroom Set (80 piece set)
- ▶ *Sounds of Listening Lotto* (boxed set)
- ▶ Safety: Pre K-1
- ▶ Beautiful Stuff! Learning with Found Materials by Cathy Weisman Topal and Lella Gandini
- ▶ Health Literature Kit (20 titles)
 - *Wash Your Hands!* by Tony Ross
 - *Have you ever seen a Moose Brushing his Teeth?* by Jamie McClaine
 - *Going to the Dentist* by Anne Civardi
 - *I Will Never NOT EVER Eat a Tomato* by Lauren Child
 - *My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks* by Hanoch Piven
 - *Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild!* by Mem Fox
 - *The Tale of Sir Dragon: Dealing with Bullies for Kids* by Jean E. Pendziwol
 - *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O'Neill
 - *The Worst Best Friend* by Alexis O'Neill
 - *Fred Stays with Me!* by Nancy Coffelt
 - *The Family Book* by Todd Parr
 - *Who's in a Family?* by Robert Skutch

- *A Rainbow of Friends* by P.K. Hallinan
- *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox
- *When I Was Little: A Four-Year-Old's Memoir of Her Youth* by Jamie Lee Curtis
- *I'm Sorry* by Sam McBratney
- *Each Living Thing* by Joanne Ryder
- *Watch Out! Near Water* by Claire Llewellyn
- *Watch Out! On the Road* by Claire Llewellyn
- *Why Should I Recycle?* By Jen Green

Mathematics

The Kindergarten Mathematics curriculum supports developmentally appropriate experiences and the active exploration of a variety of mathematical ideas where children retain their enjoyment of and curiosity about mathematics. Mathematical activities in Kindergarten should provide children with opportunities to:

- communicate in order to learn and express their understanding
- connect mathematical ideas to other concepts in mathematics, to everyday experiences and to other disciplines
- demonstrate fluency with mental mathematics and estimation
- develop and apply new mathematical knowledge through problem solving
- develop mathematical reasoning
- develop visualization skills to assist in processing information, making connections and solving problems

Kindergarten mathematics is organized into three strands:

- number
- patterns and relations
- shape and space

Authorized Learning Resources

- ▶ *Kindergarten Mathematics Curriculum Guide* (2009)
- ▶ *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010)
- ▶ *Math Makes Sense Kindergarten*
 - Big Math Book Package (print and e-book)
 - Teacher Guide (with CD-ROM)
 - Audio CD
- ▶ Emergent level Little Books (24 titles)
- ▶ Emergent level Lap Books (6 titles)
- ▶ Emergent level Teacher Guide

- ▶ Manipulative Kit including:
 - two-colour counters (200)
 - overhead two-colour counters (50)
 - soft dot dice (100)
 - large geometric solids (6 piece set)
 - stacking cubes (200)
 - links (200)
 - jumbo foam dominoes
 - 35 mm shapes for lacing
 - starter balance

Music

Music in Kindergarten provides experiences which are meaningful and enjoyable to the child and which develop a greater love for, understanding of and sensitivity to music. Using children's songs, singing games, folk and art music, students explore rhythm and metre, melody/pitch and expressive devices (mood, tempo, dynamics, sound sources) through an integrated program of listening, singing, speaking, moving, playing, responding, and creating. Such activities help the child discover musical concepts, develop musical skills, and establish a foundation for musical learning.

Authorized Learning Resources

- ▶ *Foundation for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Education Curriculum*
- ▶ *Music Curriculum Guide: Kindergarten - Grade 6* (2005)
- ▶ *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010)

Supplementary Learning Resources

Teachers should choose appropriate material from the following Supplementary resources listed for Primary Music:

- ▶ *120 Singing Games and Dances*
- ▶ *An Orff Mosaic from Canada*
- ▶ *Teaching Towards Musical Understanding*
- ▶ *The Kodály Method I*
- ▶ *Roots and Branches*
- ▶ *Name Games*
- ▶ *Sound Ideas*
- ▶ *Music play 1 Teacher's Guide*
- ▶ *The Listening Resource Kit, Level 1*

Physical Education

Physical Education in kindergarten is activity based and designed to provide a variety of movement experiences that contribute to motor skill development and focus on active healthy lifestyles. Process skills are emphasized and children develop movement strategies to react to various situations, solve problems and make decisions.

Taken as a whole and developed on a continuum throughout the school system, the outcomes of the physical education program encourages learners to develop physically, cognitively, socially, emotionally and spiritually, in, about, and through movement. (*Adjusting the Focus: A Curriculum Framework for Physical Education, 1996*).

Authorized Learning Resources

- ▶ *Physical Education Curriculum Guide: Kindergarten* (2010)
- ▶ *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010)
- ▶ *A Curriculum Framework for Physical Education : Adjusting the Focus* (1996)

Religious Education

The Kindergarten Religious Education Program engages students in an exploration of a variety of special days, festivals and celebrations in eight living belief systems. The theme provides opportunities for students to discover the nature of observing special events and the connection to a living belief system's traditions. Commemorating special celebrations is important for many belief systems because they enable communities to share their unique qualities. This aspect of celebrations is the focus for the Kindergarten program in Religious Education.

Authorized Learning Resources

- ▶ *Framework Document for Religious Education* (2002)
- ▶ *Religious Education Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2005)
- ▶ *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010)

Supplementary Learning Resources

- ▶ *Celebrations!* (resource kit with CD, teacher's resource, visuals, and puppets)
- ▶ *The Beginner's Bible* (2005)
- ▶ *Fitness for Children*
- ▶ *Multicultural Folk Dance Treasure Chest*, Volumes 1 and 2
- ▶ *Movement with Meaning: Physical Education K-4*
- ▶ *Physical Education Methods for the Classroom*
- ▶ *Ready to use P. E. Activities for Grades K-2*
- ▶ *Teaching Responsibility through Physical Activity*
- ▶ *The Biggest Little Game Book Ever: Basic Package*

Science

The role of science in the Kindergarten Program is to stimulate interest in science, to encourage observation using all the senses, to develop the rudiments of classification, to stimulate children's natural desire to investigate their environment, and to clarify concepts.

Authorized Learning Resources

- ▶ *Kindergarten Science Curriculum Guide* (2010)
- ▶ *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010)

Supplementary Learning Resources

- ▶ Pan-Canadian Science Place: *My World* Classroom Kit (2002) including *My World* (big book format) with 3 little books: *Living Things*, *Things We Use*, and *Look Everywhere*, Teacher Resource Guide.

Social Studies Enterprise Education

The Social Studies and Enterprise Education curriculum at the Kindergarten level is organized around the concept of "connections". Children will examine:

- connections to their identity by further developing an awareness of self and others
- connections to their roots by exploring how they are connected to family
- connections to place by developing an awareness that they live in a particular community and that there are other communities in their province, country, and world.

Authorized Learning Resources

- ▶ *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada Social Studies Curriculum*
- ▶ *Atlantic Canada Social Studies Curriculum Guide Kindergarten- Grade 2*
- ▶ *Completely Kindergarten-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide* (2010)
- ▶ *We Can Do Anything K-3* (1998)

Discovery Links Social Studies Resource

Supplementary Learning Resources

- ▶ Big Books (*It's About Me...It's About You, Where I Come From, and Near and Far*)
- ▶ Little Books (set of nine titles)
- ▶ Photo Cards (set of 12)
- ▶ Posters (set of six)
- ▶ Teachers' resource binder with CD Rom