

## *Play and Learn Week*

*Play and Learn Week* will take place November 5 -9, 2012 in all Newfoundland and Labrador public schools that offer kindergarten and grades 1-3. This is one of the planned events related to *The Power of Play* promotional campaign which was launched in spring 2012.

*Play and Learn Week* is a Newfoundland and Labrador initiative designed to highlight the importance of play for children's optimal learning and development, and to reinforce the notion that many of the concepts taught in primary school can be taught through play based experiences. During the week, schools will be engaged in a variety of activities that promote play and learning in the classroom.

Children and teachers alike will have opportunities to express their creativity through playful activities that support the curriculum for respective grade levels, both within the classroom and outside, to meet curriculum outcomes.

Parents will be provided with information on play and learning and how they can support their children's learning through fun everyday games they can do together.

Promotional materials will be provided by the Department of Education and sent to the schools to be given to the students, parents, and teachers throughout the week.

Play based learning is an essential part of children's development. Having a variety of hands on learning activities and opportunities to engage in play built into the primary curriculum will ensure students are able to maximize their learning potential during these formative years. When children are given the opportunity to participate in activities that are fun and engaging, their love of learning grows exponentially and this has a lasting effect on the remainder of their academic careers.



For further information about play and learning, visit *The Power of Play* at:  
<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/earlychildhood/power.html>