

TO: KinderStart Parents / Caregivers

FROM: Division of Early Childhood Learning

RE: *KinderStart* materials for school year 2015 – 2016

Welcome to KinderStart 2015-16!

The Division of Early Childhood Learning, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 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: *Leon the Chameleon* by Mélanie Watt and *Tap the Magic Tree* by Christine Matheson**
- Balancing Tree Game**
- Crayola Dry Erase Board with crayons**
- 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 *Leon the Chameleon*
 - activity sheet for *Tap the Magic Tree*
 - 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) 729-5128 or visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's website at: <http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/earlychildhood/kinderstart.html>



**Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**