

TO: KinderStart Parents/ Caregivers

FROM: Division of Early Childhood Learning

RE: **KinderStart materials for school year 2016-17**

Welcome to KinderStart 2016-17!

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. The program will consist of sessions for children and parents/ caregivers. These sessions will allow your child to be familiar with the kindergarten classroom the year before the school begins. This will help in their smooth transition to school.

As a parent/ caregiver, you will participate in parent/ caregiver sessions which will provide you information on how to support your child's learning and development at home. You will also have an opportunity to connect with teachers, administrators and 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 the school begins. Your child will receive the KinderStart 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.

KinderStart resource bag materials include:

- A KinderStart Program Resource Booklet welcoming you and your child to KinderStart**
- Children's books:**
 - *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
 - *Wild About Us* by Karen Beaumont
- Finger Puppet- Monkey**
- 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**
- KinderStart journal**
- KinderStart calendar**

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 and Early Childhood Development's website at <http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/earlychildhood/kinderstart.html>.

Sincerely,

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