



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN™

Learning Through Play



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We value you as your child's first and most important teacher. Our *Learning Through Play* newsletters are created to provide your family with activities that you can do at home. We strongly believe in the importance of talking, reading, creating and playing with your child every day! Have fun trying out these activities!

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You are your child's first and best teacher!

Follow your child's lead as you play and discover together.

Talk and read with your child in your first language. Help your child to share and take turns.

Encourage your child to make choices and decisions.

Celebrate your child's learning.

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FAMILY FUN TIME: CELEBRATE WHAT MAKES YOUR FAMILY SPECIAL

Pick a photo or draw a picture of something your family enjoys doing together.

It could be:

- Cooking a favourite meal.
- Exploring nature on a walk or hike.
- Celebrating a holiday or family tradition.
- Sharing stories from your culture or family history.

After choosing a photo or finishing the drawing, talk about it with your child.



This is a fun way to talk about what makes your family unique. It also helps your child build conversation and storytelling skills. Plus, it's a chance to learn more about family traditions and what they mean to each of you.



SORTING FUN: LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Sorting helps kids notice similarities and differences, building early math skills.

Try this:

1. Gather everyday items like toys, socks, or cutlery.
2. Ask your child to sort them by colour, size, shape, or texture.
3. Guide their thinking with questions like, “What makes these the same?” or “How are they different?”

Add a fun twist with this sorting song to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus” -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWirdnSDsV4>

“Let’s sort the toys into little groups,

Little groups, little groups.

Let’s sort the toys into little groups

What colours do you see?”



Repeat for shapes, sizes, or textures, and watch as sorting becomes an engaging, educational game!



BE A SINGER! 🎵

Does your child love to sing? Turn their passion into a fun family concert!

1. Plan the Performance – Help your child choose their favourite songs and design costumes or props.
2. Set the Stage – Create a "stage" area at home and invite family members to be the audience.
3. Showtime! – Cheer them on as they perform their concert.

TRY SINGING IN YOUR HOME LANGUAGE!

Singing songs in your home language can help your child learn new words and phrases. Repetition in songs makes it easier to remember vocabulary and sentence structures. Plus, songs with personal or cultural meaning make learning even more special!

Get ready to sing, dance, and make lasting memories together! Consider adding make a video. of your show and share with friends and family.

Singing helps your child by:

- 🎵 Building memory and language skills.
- 🎵 Connecting with your home language and culture.
- 🎵 Boosting confidence through creative play.



SOLVING EVERYDAY PROBLEMS

Every day has happy moments – but sometimes there are problems too. This activity helps kids talk about everyday challenges and find ways to solve them. By discussing problems calmly, kids learn to see others' points of view and can even practice solving them!

Start a Story:

Tell your child about a simple problem that could happen at home, school, or in the community.

Ask Questions:

- How do the characters feel?
- What could they do to solve the problem?
- Let your child think of ideas. Don't give the solution right away – guide them with questions.
- Has anything like this happened to you or a friend of yours?

This activity helps kids:

- Understand different perspectives.
- Build language and problem-solving skills.
- Learn to manage emotions and real-life challenges.





"I SPY" SENSES

Try a new twist on the classic "I Spy" game by using more than just your eyes!

When you're outside, close your eyes and pay attention to what you hear, smell, or feel. Describe it for your child to guess. For example, you could say, "I hear something chirping" or "I smell something sweet." Can they figure out what it is?

Then, take turns spying things using your senses!

Did You Know?

Kids learn about the world through their senses. This version of "I Spy" helps them slow down and notice sounds, smells, and textures around them. It also builds their communication skills and helps them connect words to real-life experiences. Plus, it's a fun way to be mindful and aware of their surroundings!





"CONTINUE THE STORY" GAME

Spark your child's creativity with the fun and unpredictable "Continue the Story" game! It's perfect for building storytelling, teamwork, and listening skills. Best of all, the twists and turns will have everyone laughing and eager to see what happens next.

How to Play:

1. Start the Story: Begin with a few sentences to set the scene, like: "Once upon a time, there was a magical forest..."
2. Take Turns Adding: Each person adds a few lines to keep the adventure going.
3. Wrap It Up: Keep going until everyone has contributed, creating a unique family story.

Make It Even More Fun:

- Draw It: Illustrate parts of the story as it unfolds.
- Act It Out: Turn it into a mini-play with simple props or costumes.
- Record It: Capture the storytelling to watch or listen to later.

Why It's Great for Kids (and Parents!):

This game is more than just fun—it helps kids:

- Think Creatively.
- Listen Carefully.
- Work as a Team.

Perfect for rainy days, long car rides, or bedtime, "Continue the Story" is a delightful way to strengthen communication skills and family bonds while sharing lots of laughs!



MORE IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter.

You are receiving this newsletter because your child's school participates in the **Welcome to Kindergarten™** program.

You are your child's first and best teacher, so have fun talking, reading, creating and playing every day!

For more ideas, check out our future newsletters or our resource page at

<https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/resources/>



ABOUT WTK

Welcome to Kindergarten™ (WTK) supports new Kindergarten children and families, in warmly welcoming them to school. WTK offers high quality early learning materials and family support. All WTK activities and resources are based on current research and effective practice in early learning, transition to school, family engagement and community involvement.



Bienvenue à la maternelle!  Welcome to Kindergarten!
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