



Kindergarten Program Handbook



**Sturgeon
Public Schools**
Dare to reimagine learning

Signs of Readiness

Readiness factors you should consider before registering your child for kindergarten:

PERSONALITY

- * The child is confident; she/he feels good about herself and is confident in his/her ability to succeed.
- * She/he is curious about his/her environment and motivated to learn about it.
- * She/he is independent enough to do certain things for himself/herself.

SOCIAL SKILLS

- * She/he can integrate into a group, and relate to new children and adults.
- * She/he can adapt to new routines.
- * She/he is able to take turns and share.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- * She/he can communicate effectively.

MOTOR SKILLS

- * She/he can put on her own coat and go to the bathroom by herself/himself.

ATTENTION AND FOCUS

- * She/he can follow simple directions.
- * She/he can listen to a story or participate in a discussion for 10 to 15 minutes.
- * She/he can finish projects she/he starts.

OTHER COGNITIVE SKILLS

- * She/he can name letters and understand letter/sound relationships.
- * She/he can name the numbers and count.

From "The National Association for the Education of Young Children"

DEAR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Welcome to Namao School and an exciting year of Kindergarten! Starting school means so many things for parents and children to remember. We hope this information booklet will introduce you to our program. Please feel free to contact the school administration at 973-9191 if you have any questions.

REGISTRATION FEES

The yearly fee for attending Kindergarten at Namao School:

\$100.00 Field Trip Fee

\$30.00 Supply Fee

\$20.00 Craft Fee

\$150.00 total



HOW WILL PARENTS BE INFORMED?



All Kindergarten information will be sent home via the newsletter and the calendar of events. Please post your calendar somewhere convenient for you, as it contains important information about the events happening in Kindergarten that month.

Field trips are a valuable enrichment to the curriculum. Throughout the year, the Kindergarten children travel to several “out of school” places which will enhance their learning and extend upon the topics covered in class. For example, trips in the past have included:

- ◆ Soap Stone Carving
- ◆ Yoga
- ◆ Build A Bear
- ◆ Gymnastics



These trips are fully funded by the Kindergarten program fees. Speakers, and special craft activities are also covered by the program fees.

Parent supervisors are needed on these trips and a field trip form for volunteers will be sent out prior to each field trip.

WILL THERE BE FIELDTRIPS?

How are Birthdays Celebrated In Kindergarten?



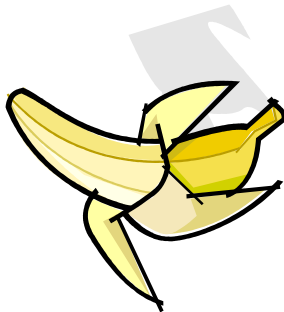
Birthdays will be recognized throughout the year in Kindergarten. On your child's birthday, parents can send in one snack to be shared in the classroom (e.g. cupcakes, cookies, rice crispy squares, etc.) if they wish. These birthday snacks will be shared during regular snack time in the morning.

For those children who have their birthday in June, July, or August, we will have their "unbirthdays" during the last month of school.

WHAT IS DONE FOR SNACK TIME AND LUNCH TIME?

We will have a short break in the morning. Please send two nutritious snacks. Students will need to have a lunch as well, sent in a lunch kit or bag. Please **do not** send any products containing nuts or nut products.

An Updated Allergy List will be sent home via Newsletter.



WHAT SUPPLIES WILL MY CHILD NEED?

Most of the supplies for the kindergarten program, including crayons, paper, glue, paint and other craft items, are supplied by the school. Parents will need to supply the following items.



Inside Shoes—Children need a pair of clean soft-soled shoes (e.g. running shoes) that remain at school. All outside footwear is removed in the boot room and placed on boot racks. Please note that Velcro shoes are requested.

Backpack - A large backpack is important for carrying snacks, home/school information, school projects, and so on.



Extra Clothing—An extra set of clothing: pants, shirt, socks, underwear labelled with name (for accidents, wet clothing at recess, etc.) These will be kept in your child's backpack.

Headphones—for use in the computer lab, kept in a labelled zip lock bag.

Please remember to label your child's belongings with their name or initials (especially both shoes, backpack, gloves and coats.)

WILL THERE BE SHOW AND TELL?

We will incorporate our themes and alphabet letters into our 'show and tell' time.

CAN I BRING YOUNGER SIBLINGS WHEN I VOLUNTEER OR VISIT THE CLASSROOM?

In order to maintain the best learning environment, with the least amount of distraction, we ask that you **not** bring younger siblings when you visit or volunteer in our kindergarten class. Thank you for your cooperation.



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent volunteers are an integral part of the Kindergarten program.

Each parent is strongly encouraged to volunteer. They will be assisting the students with crafts and other center activities, preparing class materials, cleaning up, and other activities assigned by the teacher. If you are **unable** to volunteer, any other responsible adult such as a grandparent or aunt/uncle is most welcome to assist in the classroom as a volunteer.

Please note Sturgeon Public School requires all volunteers to provide a Criminal Record Check to work or volunteer in our schools. There may be a charge depending what area you live in as you must receive a Criminal Record Check from your local Police Department. Currently, forms are required once during your enrolment with Namao School. Request forms can be picked up at our office.





NAMAO SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMING PLAN

The Kindergarten Program covers seven learning areas including the social, physical, intellectual, cultural, creative and emotional needs of young children. The program provides a foundation for elementary schooling. The seven areas include:

- ♦ **Early Literary**
- ♦ **Early Numeracy**
- ♦ **Environment and Community Awareness**
- ♦ **Personal and Social Responsibility**
- ♦ **Physical Skills and Well-Being**
- ♦ **Creative Expression**
- ♦ **Citizenship and Identity**



Kindergarten Program Highlights

Early Literacy

- *Enjoying and sharing books, stories, poems, recordings and videos*
- *Predicting what happens next in story*
- *Asking questions about their reading, listening, viewing*
- *Expressing ideas and experiences*
- *Recognizing, copying and writing familiar words and letters*

Early Numeracy

- *Patterns and numbers*
- *Sorting, matching, counting, ordering*
- *Measurement, capacity, weight*
- *Temperature, time, shape, space*
- *Problem solving skills*

Environment and Community Awareness

- *Early learning in science and social*
- *Using senses to explore, investigate and describe their environment*
- *Recognize similarities and differences*
- *Using simple tools*
- *Building simple structures*
- *Explore scientific concepts*
- *Describe feeling, special interests, events and experiences*
- *Learn about special places and people*

Personal and Social Responsibility

- *Personal and social management skills*
- *Taking responsibility*
- *Contribute to a group*
- *Work cooperatively*

Physical Skills and Well-Being

- *Health and physical education*
- *Healthy food choice*
- *Safety rules*
- *Games and activities using equipment*
- *Develop coordination, balance, stability*
- *Hand precision and dexterity*

Creative Expression

- *Art, music, drama*
- *Explore and express thoughts in many ways*
- *Use of language, sound, colour, shape and movement*
- *Action verses, songs and poems*
- *Family traditions and celebrations*

Citizenship and Identity

- *Discover how they are connected to other people and to their communities*
- *Express interest, sensitivity and responsibility in interactions with others*
- *Become aware of who they are as unique individuals*

Namao School's Kindergarten is based on a Reggio Inspired Program



The Kindergarten program follows the Reggio Emilia approach to teaching young children and is based upon:

*Children must have some control over the direction of their learning;

* Children must be able to learn through experiences of touching, moving, listening, seeing and hearing;

* Children have a relationship with other children and the material items in the world that children must be allowed to explore and

* Children must have endless ways and opportunities to express themselves.



Students are encouraged to problem-solve among their peers, and are given opportunities to develop creative thinking and exploration skills. Learning is promoted through a range of long- term projects following the interests of the children, which are facilitated by the teacher.

The classroom environment is considered the 'third teacher' as it is resourced with many natural objects in order to stimulate curiosity, promote

creative development and encourage conversation.

