



**WELCOME TO
FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN
AT DIVINE MERCY CES**





Kindergarten Information For Families

2020



WELCOME!



Prayer: A Child's Hands



Blessings from the hand of a child:

Blessings of innocence,

Blessings of hope;

Blessings of trust:

Blessings of joy.

May these graces help heal our fractured souls;

create in us wider circles of compassion;

lead us to deeper loving.

Gracious God may your touch be felt through these tiny hands,

bless them and guide them,

may they be instruments of your healing and peace, **Amen**



Les Miller





YCDSB LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.

We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.

We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

Todd Jamieson
YCDSB Knowledge Keeper



The Kindergarten Program



“The Kindergarten program is a child-centred, developmentally appropriate, integrated, extended-day program of learning for four and five-year-old children. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years, and to do so in a safe and caring play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children.” ~Ministry of Education: The Kindergarten Program, 2016



Catholic Education in Kindergarten

"Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.'"

Mark 10:14



The Kindergarten Program



Large blocks of time dedicated to play-based and inquiry-based learning within the flow of the day

Explicit instruction in literacy, mathematics, and religion occurs during focused learning time and during play-based learning blocks



Purposeful Play:

- will occur both inside and outside as part of the Kindergarten program
- may be structured or unstructured
- provides opportunities for students to actively engage in conversation, ask and answer questions, use key vocabulary, and connect to their own experiences
- fosters opportunities to experiment, explore, construct, solve problems, communicate, role play and make decisions



School Times



Bell Times

8:35 a.m.	Yard Supervision begins
8:50 a.m .	Entry bell
10:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Recess
12:00 p.m. -12:20 p.m.	Lunch
12:20 p.m. - 1:00 p.m	Lunch recess
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon classes begin
2:20 p.m.—2:35 p.m.	Recess
3:40 p.m.	Dismissal/End of day

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- ☛ Yard supervision begins at **8:35 am**
- ☛ School starts at **8:50 am**
- ☛ School ends at **3:40 pm**
- ☛ Parents are asked to drop off and or pick up their child at the gate to the kindergarten fenced area



Safe Arrival Procedures

SAFE ARRIVAL

Student Absence Reporting

Phone: 1-855-856-7862

Website: go.schoolmessenger.ca

Mobile App: [!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) App Store](#) [!\[\]\(f5c463b8c1554ac5049d611bd8e33a51_img.jpg\) Google Play](#)



Student Transportation

For information on eligibility bus routes, stop locations, late arrival, cancellations, and general information, please contact York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information at 1-877-330-3001 or the [STS YR website](http://www.schoolbuscity.com/)



Before and After Care Programs

- Before and after School Programs are offered at Divine Mercy
- Among Friends is the Before and After School Program provider
- Among Friends Child Care Centre Telephone 905 552 0610



Nutrition Breaks: Snacks and Lunches



- peanut and nut safe environments
- provide two snacks and a lunch (number snacks and lunch: 1, 2, 3)
- lunch time supervisor will supervise the children while they eat their lunch
- children play outside everyday during the lunch recess
(with some weather exceptions)



Divine Mercy CES Uniform

Divine Mercy CES uniform colours are: Blue and White
The uniform consist of blue pants or skirts and white shirt with a collar.



The uniform provider is DGN Kilters.

Their address is 1500 Bonhill Road, Mississauga, Ontario

Phone ordering 1-800-437-5872

Online ordering: www.dgn-kilters.com



Considerations for September

- Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as they will be provided opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play
- Please label clothing and other items with your child's name (e.g. coat, shoes, Knapsack)
- Students must have a pair of indoor running shoes. These can be kept at school
- Velcro shoes will allow your child to independently put on his/her footwear
- Please send a complete set of extra clothes in a large Ziploc bag labelled with your child's name

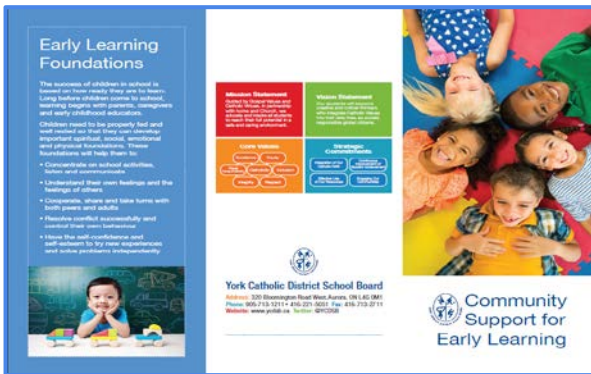


Activities to Prepare for September

- opening and closing school bag and lunch/snack containers
- independently washing hands with soap
- independent toileting routines
- dressing and undressing
- putting on their shoes



Additional Resources:



Early Learning Foundations

The readiness of children to school is based on how many strong and healthy foundations children come to school, learning together with parents, caregivers and early childhood educators.

Children need to be physically fit and well-nourished so that they can experience and benefit from the social and intellectual stimulation of school. These foundations will help them to:

- Concentrate on school activities, concepts and assignments.
- Understand their own bodies and the bodies of others.
- Communicate ideas and solve problems with both peers and adults.
- Handle social responsibility and resolve any conflicts.
- Have the self-confidence and self-esteem to try new experiences and solve problems independently.

York Catholic District School Board
Address: 320 Denison Street, Toronto, ON M5G 1S6
Phone: 416-733-3211 • 416-221-5024 • Fax: 416-733-2111
Website: www.ycdsb.ca, twitter: @YCDSB

Community Support for Early Learning



FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN
A Question and Answer Guide for Parents

Beginning full-day kindergarten is an exciting new step for your child and for you. This guide will provide you with some details about full-day kindergarten and answer some questions you may have about how it works and how it will help your child.

What is full-day kindergarten?
Full-day kindergarten is available to all of Ontario's four- and five-year-olds in public funded schools.

Full-day kindergarten offers:

- A two-year program designed to create a strong foundation for learning that prepares a child for school.
- An environment that supports learning through relationships, play, exploration and inquiry.
- Programs before and after school hours designed to complement the regular school day. These are optional and are offered to parents for a reasonable fee. Financial assistance will be available for families who qualify. School boards will offer programs before and after school hours based on parent demand.

How will my child benefit?
In today's complex world, education is more important than ever for our children. Full-day kindergarten is designed to give your child a stronger start in school and in life. It is a part of Ontario's plan to support early learning and child development, build a stronger publicly funded school system and contribute to Ontario's long-term economic competitive advantage.

Full-day kindergarten is optional for four- and five-year-olds. However, research shows that children who participate in full-day early learning programs – like full-day kindergarten – get a stronger start in school and life.

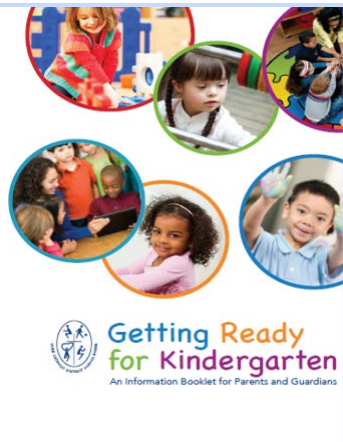
ontario.ca/kingergarten

Ontario

This brochure is available on the Ministry of Education website in many different languages if you scroll to the bottom of the page

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/>

<https://www.ycdsb.ca/programs-services/kindergarten/>



Getting Ready for Kindergarten
An Information Booklet for Parents and Guardians

The booklet features several circular images showing children engaged in various activities: playing with blocks, reading a book, drawing, and interacting with a teacher. The title is in a colorful, playful font.



We look forward to Seeing you
in September !

If you have any questions, please contact the
school at 905 832 2555.

