

So My Child is Heading Off to School Next Year ...

What Should I Expect?



If your child will be turning four years of age in the coming year, now is the time to start thinking about entry into Kindergarten.

Questions you might be asking yourself include:

“Is my child ready?”

**“Is my child ready for full day,
every day classes?”**

“Which school will my child attend?”

**“Will my child ride the school bus,
or will I be dropping off my child?”**

You can discuss all of these questions, as well as any others, with a Community Living Huntsville Resource Consultant.

And outlined in this booklet are steps to take leading up to the first day of Kindergarten. Some may apply to your child, while others may not.

There are also some important contacts listed, depending on which school your child will attend.

What Are the First Steps?



October/November

- Start thinking about your plans for the fall. It may seem early, but the time can go by fast. Do you feel your child is ready for school, and will they attend full time? You can discuss these options with a Resource Consultant.

January/February

- Registration starts in January and February. Do you know which school your child will attend?
- Visit mybustoschool.ca via the Trillium Lakelands District School Board website for public schools.
- Visit the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board website for the catholic school.
- Register your child by calling the school and picking up the registration package, or access it online through the school's website. You will need:
 - ⇒ Proof of age for your child.
 - ⇒ Name and phone number of child's doctor.
 - ⇒ Ontario Health Card number (optional).
 - ⇒ Child's immunization record.
 - ⇒ Residence road name and 911 address.
 - ⇒ Other documents may be required. Visit the school's website for any additional information.

April/May

- If your child may need extra support in the classroom, or a modified Kindergarten curriculum, contact the principal at your school to discuss having an entry meeting/case conference. A Resource Consultant can assist you with this:
 - ⇒ This meeting could consist of the Principal, Special Education Resource Teacher, Classroom Teacher, Special Education Consultant and/or other service providers that support your child.
 - ⇒ The purpose of the meeting would be to assist the school staff in becoming aware of your child's strengths and needs, while making plans for a successful entry into Kindergarten.
 - ⇒ Sometimes there can be several meetings, depending on the needs of your child.
 - ⇒ A Resource Consultant can attend meetings with you as a support and advocate, as needed.

June/July/August

- If a school meeting has been discussed and has not already happened, the school will probably arrange one during June and/or the last week of August.
- Access lots of opportunities for socializing with other children. Practice skills for school. Some are listed in this booklet. Have fun!



You are your child's first teacher and continue to have an important role in their future learning.

Below are some contacts that will enhance the teaching you've already started.



Visit one of their various locations.

If available, enroll in their Ready for School programs.

Build friendships, independence, social skills, emotional regulation, and participate in a circle time.

www.muskoka.on.ca/children

or on Facebook at facebook.com/EarlyonMuskoka



Information for parents on specialized services available for students, if needed.

Find out which school your child will be attending, plus busing information.

Online registration for Kindergarten registration, or call school directly.

www.tldsb.ca

Use the mybustoschool.ca link on the website to find out which school your child will attend, and busing information.



**SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Information for parents on specialized services available for students, if needed.

Busing information available.

Online registration for Kindergarten, or printable format.

www.smcdsb.ca



What Can I Do to Help My Child Be Prepared for School?

Although the first thing we think of are the academics, there are many other areas that are just as important, such as self-help skills, social interactions and emotional regulation.

Listed below are things you and your child can practice to assist with a more prepared entry:

- Your child will have to make many choices. Practice this by giving opportunities while eating, dressing and playing.
- Provide play dates or visit an EarlyOn centre for social interactions with other children. Encourage lots of opportunities for turn-taking and sharing.
- Provide moments when your child will need to wait. If this is difficult, try counting out loud. Keep it brief to start, and then gradually lengthen.
- Practice sitting on the floor in a circle format for songs or stories.
- Encourage self-help skills to the extent that your child is physically capable, including putting on a coat and shoes, cleaning up after snack, opening and closing snack containers, hand washing, and toileting.

- Encourage asking for help with words if your child has them, or gestures and sign language.
- Practice pre-printing skills such as beading, lacing, and using peg boards.
- Introduce children's safety scissors while supervised. Even snipping paper for a collage is good practice.
- While outside, talk about nature that you encounter. Discuss the seasons and weather.
- Sort lots of items during play and while doing chores around the house. Sort in a variety of ways, such as colours, shapes, functions, and sizes.
- In everyday life, talk about colours, shapes, numbers, and letters that you see in the environment.
- Enjoy time building and constructing with your child using a variety of materials. Encourage self expression and problem solving.
- Engage in lots of large-muscle activities, such as running, kicking, catching and throwing balls, action songs, and using outdoor equipment.

You may already be engaging your child in these types of activities and that's great!

Continue to have fun playing together.



School Contacts



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| Huntsville Public School | 705-789-2318 |
| Irwin Memorial Public School | 705-635-2232 |
| Pine Glen Public School | 705-789-4791 |
| Riverside Public School | 705-789-2282 |
| Spruce Glen Public School | 705-789-4591 |
| VK Greer Memorial Public School | 705-385-2200 |
| Watt Public School | 705-769-3643 |



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| Saint Mary Catholic School | 705-789-6481 |
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Inspiring Possibilities

Resource Consultant Program

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