

Castlemore Public School

Discover Kindergarten

Welcome

مرحباً بكم

Hoş Geldiniz

Добро пожаловать

सुस्वागतम्

جی آیاں نوں

환영합니다

歡迎

நல்வரவு

Chào mừng

خوش آمدید

欢迎光临

Land Acknowledgment



We want to acknowledge that we are learning on the traditional territories of the **Wendat**, **Haudenosaunee** and the **Anishinaabe** peoples. We have a shared responsibility to this land. Together, we want to protect our shared resources and use them in a good way for the future generations of all communities.

Welcome!



A Message from Louise Sirisko,
Director of Education

Meet Our Team!



[Click here to watch the video!](#)

A Message from
The Castlemore Kindergarten Team



Introducing Educator Teams

Educators work together to consider each child's unique identities, experiences & strengths to support their learning and development.

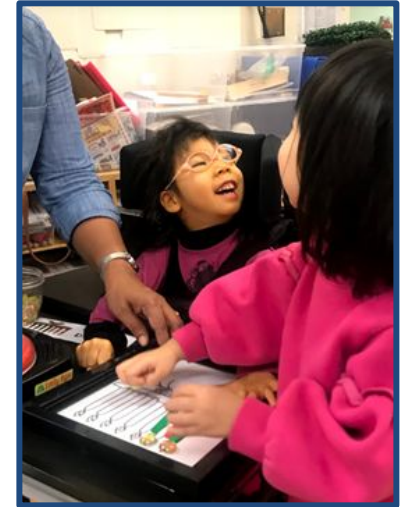
Kindergarten classrooms have an educator team consisting of:

- an **designated early childhood educator (DECE)**,
- a **classroom teacher**, and
- a **prep-coverage teacher**



Kindergarten is for All Children

Children entering Kindergarten are competent, curious and full of potential. They come with diverse backgrounds, lived experiences and special education needs, and are at different stages of development.



Family Partnerships

Parents and families bring diverse, social, cultural and linguistic perspectives and are their children's first teachers.



You are your child's first and most important teacher and we want to learn from you as we get to know your child.

Play-Based Learning

“Play-based learning supports growth in the language and culture of children and their families.”

(The Kindergarten Program, p. 18)



As children and educators engage in play-based learning together, the foundations of early literacy and mathematics are built.



Learning Through Purposeful Play

Educators intentionally plan and create purposeful, play-based learning experiences. Children have opportunities to:

Make Friends

Share Ideas

Explore

Create

Draw

Write

Read

Move

Build

Problem Solve

Imagine

Discover



The Four Frames of Kindergarten

In the Kindergarten play-based learning program, children explore, play and inquire, both indoors and outdoors, four frames for learning.

These four frames for learning are:

- Demonstrating Literacy & Mathematics Behaviours
- Belonging & Contributing
- Problem Solving & Innovating
- Self-Regulation & Well-Being



The Kindergarten
Program, 2016, p. 14

Demonstrating Literacy & Mathematics Behaviours

As children play, they develop...

- literacy and mathematics behaviours connected to real-life, relevant and authentic contexts
- A love of learning



Demonstrating Literacy & Mathematics Behaviours

As children play, educators focus on the children's "**literacy behaviours**":

- communicate through gestures, words, symbols, and images
- respond to stories
- begin to think critically
- begin to read and write in authentic contexts.



Demonstrating Literacy & Mathematics Behaviours



As children play, educators focus on the children's...

“Mathematics behaviours” - the various ways in which children learn more about mathematical relationships, concepts, skills, and processes in real-life contexts.

Belonging and Contributing



As children play, they develop...

- A sense of connectedness to others
- An ability to form relationships and make contributions as part of: a group, a community, and the natural world

Problem Solving & Innovating

As children play, they develop...

- An understanding of the world around them, by testing theories, asking questions, solving problems and thinking creatively
- Confidence to explore innovative ideas that naturally arise in their day



Self-Regulation & Well-Being

As children play, they develop...

- An ability to understand their own thoughts and feelings
- An ability to understand and manage emotions and impulses
- An awareness of their physical and mental health and wellness



How Your Child's Learning is Assessed



- The Four Frames reflect the integrated way in which children learn through exploration, play & inquiry.
- Educators assess your child's learning and development in each frame using documentation in a variety of ways, such as, photographs, video clips, and conversations.
- This ongoing collection of your child's learning and assessment will be shared with you over the course of the year.

Formal Communication of Learning

Initial Observations (Nov/Dec)

Year 1	Year 2
<p data-bbox="65 572 938 851">Kindergarten Communication of Learning: Initial Observations reports will be sent home</p> <p data-bbox="65 996 842 1129">You will be invited to an <u>In-Class Observation Visit</u></p>	<p data-bbox="979 572 1856 851">Kindergarten Communication of Learning: Initial Observations reports will be sent home</p> <p data-bbox="979 996 1837 1208">You will be invited to participate in a <u>Meeting</u> with your child's educator(s)</p>

Formal Communication of Learning

Term 1 & Term 2

- Written comments shared in February (Term 1) and June (Term 2)
- Learning will be summarized using the four frames for learning
- Key learning, growth in learning will be described within each frame
- Next steps to support your child's learning at school and home will be included



Drop off and Pick Up

Safe Arrival Program

- If you arrive after 8:30 am you must go to the office to sign in.
- If you know your child will be absent from school you must call the office to let them know.

In the morning

- Staggered entry begins at 8:15 am (Drop off can be anytime between 8:15 - 8:30 am)
- Please use the kindergarten yard entries instead of walking through the school.

In the afternoon

- Pick up at the end of the day will be from the kindergarten yard.
- If your child goes to an afterschool program, they will be brought to the correct van by student monitors.

Bussing



Student Transportation Services of York Region (<http://net.schoolbuscity.com/>)

Families can access this website to:

- Check if you are eligible for the school bus
- Find your bus stop

Before and After Care Program

[YMCA - Before & After Care Program](#)

- Designed for children attending full-day kindergarten at Castlemore
- Program follows the YMCA Playing to Learn Curriculum and Ministry of Education Extended Day program guidelines
- Interested families must pay the appropriate fees
- To register please visit: <https://ymcagta.org/child-care/how-to-register>



A Day in Kindergarten

- **School Hours:** 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
- Staggered Entry (begins at 8:15 am through kindergarten yard entry)
- Literacy / The Arts
- Snack / Outdoor Play
- Math / Science through Inquiry
- Lunch (Outdoor Play for ½ the time, eating other ½)
- Read to Self / Inquiry / Language Building Activities
- Celebration Time / DPA / End of Day Wrap-Up
- **Dismissal Time:** 3:00 pm (meet your child at their kindergarten yard entry)



Lunch & Snack



In Kindergarten, many children make choices about going to the snack table when they are hungry ...

(p.155 The Kindergarten Program)

Lunch & Snack

The lunch hour is from 12:20-1:20 pm with a self regulated snack. All children are welcome to stay at school for lunch. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices for their daily snack (e.g. fresh fruit and vegetables or crackers and cheese).

- Lunches and snacks may be sent to school in reusable containers. Please be sure to label all containers that you send with your child's name.
- Non-spill, reusable drinking containers should be labelled.
- Lunch Assistants and Lunch Monitors are with students in class at lunch hour.



The First Day of Kindergarten

First day of school:

- Year 1 (JK) students will attend for 100 minutes for the first day of school. A letter will be emailed to your family by the end of August indicating the time to attend that day.



How will I know whose class my child is in?

- Your child will be placed in a respective class in August.
- You will receive an email with your child's class and educator's name(s) during the last week of August.
- If you have not received an email by September 4th, please contact the school castlemore.ps@yrdsb.ca

School Bags

When selecting a school bag for your child, please consider the following:

- Ensure that the bag is large enough to easily place a large library book or duo-tang inside. Your child will often carry home paintings, crafts, and library books. Small bags can make this task challenging.
- Backpacks are easy for your child to carry to and from school.
- Top loading backpacks with zippers are usually the easiest way for a young child to independently pack and unpack their bags.
- Label your child's backpack with his/her name on the inside.



Clothing

We will be spending time outdoors each day. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Help your child to become familiar with routines such as putting on and taking off his/her coat, shoes and boots. Please spend some time teaching your child how to independently do up his/her zippers, and buttons.

- Please label all clothing such as jackets, extra sweaters, shoes, boots, mittens and snow pants with your child's name
- **Velcro shoes** will allow your child to independently put on his/her shoes each day.
- We recommend that your child has a pair of indoor shoes that can be put on when coming in from outdoors. Running shoes are preferable because they can also be used as gym shoes. These shoes should be labelled with your child's name.
- Please send a complete set of **extra clothes** (including socks and underwear) to school for your child. Each item of clothing should be labelled with your child's name.



Things to Practice

Here are some things to practice with your child before they begin school:

- Using the washroom independently (toileting and hand washing)
- Dressing independently (e.g. putting coat and shoes on, avoid belts, buttons, laces).
- Drinking/eating snack and lunch independently.
- Expressing basic needs in English.
- Recognizing their name and the letters in their name.
- Printing first name with appropriate pencil grip.



Let' Stay Connected!



Here are some ways that we can stay connected...

- Check out our school website
www.yrdsb.ca/schools/castlemore.ps
- Twitter [Castlemore YRDSB Twitter](#)

Still Wondering?
Click [here](#) to submit a question.



Thank You!

