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# Welcome to Our Introduction to Kindergarten!

You are your child's first teacher. You are the most powerful influence on their learning, development, health and well-being. We can't wait to partner with you as your child begins school!

In this document, you will find information about our school's Kindergarten program, including:

- arrival and dismissal times, and entry routines
- our Kindergarten educators
- play-based learning
- recess
- lunch and snack routines and tips
- washroom and self-help routines
- what to expect on the first day
- how to contact us if you have questions

## Kindergarten at Oak Ridges Public School

Arrival time: 8:30am

Dismissal time: 3:00pm

School Contact info: [oak.ridges.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:oak.ridges.ps@yrdsb.ca) or 905-773-5572

## Our Kindergarten Educator Teams

Educators work together to support each child. The Kindergarten team consists of:

- a designated early childhood educator (DECE)
- a classroom teacher
- a prep-coverage (planning time) teacher

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# The Kindergarten Learning Environment

The learning environment in Kindergarten reflects students' lived experiences, social identities and honours multilingual learners.

## Entry Routines

- *Students are dropped off at the fenced area at the side of the school and supervised by school staff.*
- *They will drop off their bag in the line up area and then spend some time playing with their peers before the bell rings.*
- *When the bell rings, students will line up and wait for their teacher to enter the classroom.*
- *Parents and Family members stay outside of the fenced area at all times. For optimal transition, it is best to leave once your child is inside the fenced area and supervised by staff.*

## Play-Based Learning

Children have opportunities to choose from a variety of play based learning experiences across the day. The Kindergarten Program also includes learning in the outdoors as part of the instructional day.

## Recess

Children have the opportunity to go out every day for recess and Lunch recess times.

Recess time: 10:10 - 10:40am      Lunch time: 12:20 - 1:20pm

## Lunch and Snack

In Kindergarten, many children make choices about going to the snack table when they are hungry. Educators support children as they begin to do this independently.

## Our lunch and snack routines

Each classroom has routines determined by the Teaching team and will be communicated during the first days and weeks of school. Please note that no food will

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be offered to students, they must bring their own. The school is a nut-safe environment so we do not allow any snacks or food items that contain peanuts or nuts.

## Lunch and snack tips

Your child will need lunch and snacks that:

- are in containers easy for your child to open and eat independently
- do not require heating
- are nut free
- are litterless

Preparing lunches and snacks with your child the night before can make getting ready for school easier the next day.

## Washroom and Self-Help Routines

Children are encouraged to:

- use the washroom with minimal assistance.
- wash their hands with soap and water.
- dress and undress themselves (zippers, buttons, shoes, etc.) as independently as possible.

## Before and After Care Program

If you require [Before and After Care](#), please visit our board website to find contact information for your school's provider.

- Our before and after daycare is run by the YMCA. Their email address is oakridges@YMCAGTA.ORG

## Will Your Child Be Taking the Bus?

Families can access the [Student Transportation Services of York Region website](#) to:

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

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# The First Day of Kindergarten

The 2020-2021 school year start may not follow the typical routine as years past, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will convey information to each family via email when we have further information from the Ministry of Education.

## Tips for the First Day

- Get up in time to allow for a relaxed morning routine.
- Send a family photo in your child's backpack that they can visit throughout the day if they need to feel connected to you.
- Remind your child of who is picking them up.
- Use a goodbye routine you have practiced with your child.
- Remember to remain cheerful and reassure your child that they will be okay!

## Contact Us

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to us.

Website: [oakridges.ps.yrdsb.ca](http://oakridges.ps.yrdsb.ca)

Phone number: 905 773 5572

\*\*Please note that during school closure there are no staff in the building to receive your call or message. Please use email during the School Closure period.

Email address: [oak.ridges.ps.@yrdsb.ca](mailto:oak.ridges.ps.@yrdsb.ca)