



## Starting J.K. at P.D.P.S: Answers to Your Questions!

*Thank you for completing the Junior Kindergarten student information survey online!*

*We really appreciate your responses.*

*We are so happy that we could meet so many of you at our Orientation and are grateful to be able to learn a bit more about your child through the survey.*

*Thank you for sharing your concerns and questions with the Kindergarten team.*

*We would like to try to answer some of your questions here:*

### ***How can I prepare my child for school?***

We hope your child will be excited to come to school. You can prepare your child by reassuring them that they will have fun. Encourage your child to speak to their teacher if they have a problem so we can help them solve it. If your child can take their shoes off and put them on independently, that will be a great help in starting off on the right foot!

### ***What are the expectations for my child when they start the school year?***

There are no specific expectations for your child when they enter the Kindergarten classroom. We meet each child where they are at, and look forward to getting to know each child's strengths and needs. Reading, singing the alphabet song, exploring nursery rhymes and playing counting games are all things you can incorporate into your child's day or week in order to help support their early literacy and mathematics development prior to starting Kindergarten.

### ***Will we be able to visit the classroom before the school year starts?***

If you were unable to join us for the in-person Orientation day and classroom visit, there will be another opportunity at our Family Engagement night on June 9, 5:00 – 6:00 pm to which all of our new JK families will be invited.

### ***What does a day in Kindergarten look like?***

A day in Kindergarten is active, exploratory and fun! Over the course of a Kindergarten day, your child will encounter a balance of small and large group learning, teacher directed and student led opportunities, free choice and required activities, indoor and outdoor play. Your child will have the opportunity to eat three times over the course of the school day and water breaks are always encouraged. Your child will spend most of their time working with the Designated Early Childhood Educator and Classroom Teacher. They will also work with other staff members (such as the Kindergarten Specialty Teacher, Learning Support Teacher, Teacher Librarian and other Supervision Teachers) for short periods of time each day. A day in Kindergarten looks like young children learning about themselves and the world they live in!

### ***How will the teacher communicate with me?***

There are a variety of ways we will communicate with families. Depending on the class, there will be email updates and School Messenger app posts. In the fall, each class will confirm the means of

parent-staff communication to be employed and further information will be provided. There will usually be a monthly calendar provided as well as reminder messages of upcoming events. There is normally an in person parent-teacher conference opportunity each fall. You can always reach out by email or phoning the school. While we can't take calls while teaching, we can return calls at other times. The school communicates through SchoolMessenger emails every Friday night, our private Facebook page (search "Plattsville & District Public School PDPS" to become a member), and our school's website (<https://plattsville.tvdsb.ca>)

***How many students will be in my child's class?***

We cannot share a definite number at this time but it appears that both Kindergarten classes will be full and busy! There are evidently many families with young children in the Plattsville area:) We sometimes have students move in or out over the summer which means that the number of students registered may continue to change.

***Will my child receive assistance with toileting?***

Staff will be prepared to assist your child with the routines of the day and see to their needs. It is our mission to help each child function as independently as possible at school, but if they require assistance in the washroom, they will receive it. We will coach your child in developing their self care skills.

***Will my child receive independent support from a teacher?***

We are fortunate to have a teacher and a DECE (Designated Early Childhood Educator) in each classroom. This fantastic arrangement allows us to spend more time with each child. We work as a team to meet our students' individual needs through large group, small group, and 1:1 learning opportunities and conversations.

***How will my child be disciplined?***

Our program has clear expectations and routines. Sometimes students are redirected or coached to make good choices. Student-teacher conversations are key to identifying and working through problems in the classroom. We have a lot of collective experience in guiding young children through the challenges of classroom interactions. We work on problem solving and self-regulation skills on a daily basis.

***Is bullying a problem in Kindergarten?***

From time to time, conflicts arise between children in the busy classroom setting. We take a proactive approach to problem solving by helping the children develop tools to deal with these conflicts. Some of those tools include treating others as we would like to be treated, using our words to communicate our feelings and walking away to get help from an adult when other attempts are not working. The educators in the room are vigilant in keeping an eye on the children's interactions. Although it is rare to encounter bullying behaviour in the Kindergarten classroom, it is quite common for students to require guidance when interacting with their classmates.

**Thank you very much for your questions and interest in the world of Kindergarten which your child will be joining in September!**

