



## Programming for Preschoolers & Their Parents | April to May 2026

204.669.4043 • kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca • Supported by Child and Youth Services, Department of Families



Kinder Links provides preschool families in the River East Transcona community with the opportunity to play, learn, and connect with each other. These FREE parent-child programs feature fun, educational ways to explore literacy, numeracy, physical health, well-being, and creativity through art experiences, rhymes, stories, activities, and games. Kinder Links programs are an excellent way for young children to develop a lifelong passion for learning, develop their skills and self-confidence, and prepare for the adventure of school!

puzzles, and Play-Doh, and the opportunity to make a craft. Our time together ends with a lively circle time filled with favourite songs and stories.

### MAPLE LEAF SCHOOL

Please enter the building off the side parking lot door closest to McIvor Ave. Kinder Links Classroom (Room 17)

**Monday, April 6–May 25**

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled May 18

**Fridays, April 17–May 29**

10–11:30 a.m.

**Monday-Friday, May 19–29**

10–11:30 a.m.

### WESTVIEW SCHOOL

Please enter the building using the Ravelston Ave. W. entrance doors. Kinder Links Classroom (Room 26)

**NEW! Mondays, April 6–May 25**

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled May 18

**Fridays, April 17–May 29**

10–11:30 a.m.

**Sundays, April 12–May 10**

10–11:30 a.m.

**Monday–Friday, May 19–29**

10–11:30 a.m.

### Gallop & Go Gym Drop-In

Best enjoyed by children ages 6 months to 5 years

Just imagine all the fun your family will have during these open-format gym mornings! Enjoy the freedom to run, jump, and create your own games while playing with ride-on toys and other gym equipment. Each open gym session will end with a short circle time filled with favourite songs, dancing with scarves, and parachute playtime.

**Saturdays, April 11–May 9**

10:45 a.m.–12 p.m.

Westview School

**Sundays, April 12–May 10**

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

### 6-WEEK FEATURE PROGRAMS

Registration required

#### Baby Bumblebees

Best enjoyed by children birth to crawling

Introduce your baby to the joy of songs, rhymes, and finger plays! Sing along to your favourites while learning new lap songs, diapering songs, and lullabies that are sure to delight and stimulate your little one. Each week, parents will enjoy time to connect and chat with other new parents. Interesting parenting resources and tip sheets will be provided to participants.

**Tuesdays, April 7–May 12**

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

**Wednesdays, April 8–May 13**

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Westview School

**Thursdays, April 9–May 14**

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Westview School

### DROP-IN SESSIONS

No registration required

#### Wee Play & Learn—Drop-In Group

Best enjoyed by children ages 6 months to 5 years

Let's shake out those wiggles and share some giggles as we play, learn, and enjoy each other's company. This relaxed drop-in program features free play with toys,





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### Itsy Bitsy Playtime

*Best enjoyed by children ages 6 to 23 months*

Itsy Bitsy Playtime is a relaxed toddler program featuring free play with toys and lots of time to move, explore, and create. This class is ideal for busy babies and toddlers to shake out their wiggles and share some giggles as we play, learn, and enjoy each other's company. Each class ends with a group circle time experience and a special board book!

**Wednesdays, April 8–May 13**

10–11:15 a.m.  
Westview School

### Bouncing Bunnies—Gym & Jamboree

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years*

During this high-energy gym class, participants will be as busy as bees in the springtime! Together, we'll dance, hop like bunnies, play with the parachute, and enjoy group games to run around and explore the gym. Circle time fun includes spring songs and rhymes as families play musical instruments and form a marching band.

**Saturdays, April 11–May 9**

9:30–10:45 a.m.  
Westview School

**Sundays, April 12–May 10**

9:30–10:45 a.m.  
Maple Leaf School

### Hop, Skip & Jump Into Play!

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years*

This exciting program features active play group activities and free play in the school gym. Our time together will also include getting creative with Play-Doh, making the "craft of the day," and a circle time filled with puppets, books, songs, and rhymes.

**Fridays, April 10–May 1**

5:45–7 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

**Sundays, April 12–May 10**

9:30–10:45 a.m.  
Westview School

### Leap Frogs Jumping Gym

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years*

Hop into our school gymnasium and enjoy this in-motion program where parents/caregivers and children play and stay active together! Leap Frogs features easy stretches to nursery rhymes, co-operative group games, a high-energy circle, and time to play with the parachute. Learn some new songs about green frogs and make a special craft to take home.

**Saturdays, April 11–May 9**

9:30–10:45 a.m.  
Maple Leaf School

### Oodles of Doodles

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years*

Get ready for messy, creative fun at Oodles of Doodles! Each class, little artists will have the opportunity to make 2–3 crafts and collage activities using paint, chalk, markers, pom poms, and more! Our time together includes a parent-child circle time featuring favourite songs and rhymes, group stories, and book sharing.

**Mondays, April 6–May 11**

12:30–1:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

### Bookworms

*Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years*

If you love to dive into a good book and read-read-read, Bookworms is definitely the program for you! Together, we'll enjoy stories written by notable children's authors



through educational games, activities, and artwork. Along with an amazing selection of songs, rhymes, and finger plays, circle time will feature two special stories from the "author of the day."

**Mondays, April 6–May 4**

5:45–6:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

### Cool Cats & Puppy Tales

*Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years*

A purr-fect class for pet lovers, this program features engaging rhymes and finger plays, cat-inspired stretches, and high-energy games that will leave you wagging your tail with delight! Listen to playful stories of famous furry friends like Pete the Cat and Clifford the Big Red Dog, to name just a couple.

**Tuesdays, April 7–May 5**

5:45–6:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

**Wednesdays, April 8–May 13**

10–11:15 a.m.  
Maple Leaf School

### Mr. Golden Sun!

*Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years*

Join us for "fun in the sun" as we sing songs about ice cream, waves at the beach, and swimming! We've selected some sun-sational stories about summer adventures, as well as educational games and crafts. Feel free to dress for the tropics!

**Tuesdays, April 7–May 12**

10–11:15 a.m.  
Maple Leaf School

**Saturdays, April 11–May 9**

10–11:15 a.m.  
Maple Leaf School



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### Rise & Shine Storytime

*Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years*

Get your morning off to a fantastic start with light stretches, interesting books, and big happy smiles. Our group of friends will enjoy dancing, counting games, and learning how to get ready for a busy day! Each week we'll sing, share, and shine together!

**Saturdays, April 11–May 9**

10–11:15 a.m.

Westview School

### Stars & Spaceships

*Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years*

Zoom, zoom, zoom—we're going to the moon! Climb aboard a spaceship as we embark on a spectacular adventure to outer space. Through songs, stories, and space-themed games and crafts, young astronauts will learn about twinkly stars, the Milky Way, and planets.

**Mondays, April 6–May 4**

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

### Spring Frogs & Polliwogs

*Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years*

Stories, crafts, and games will keep participants hopping at this celebration of spring. Together, families will enjoy a high-energy sing-along featuring green frogs, brown bunnies, yellow ducks, red ladybugs, and brilliantly coloured butterflies.

**Thursdays, April 9–May 14**

10–11:15 a.m.

Westview School

### Whale Tales

*Best enjoyed by children 18 months to 5 years*

Join our school of fish for an exciting, educational, under-the-sea adventure. Together, we'll learn about baby sharks, jellyfish, crabs, and magnificent whales. Participants will love diving into fantastic books, games, and math activities that celebrate our friends who live in the deep blue sea.

**Tuesdays, April 7–May 12**

10–11:15 a.m.

Westview School

### 1, 2, Buckle My Shoe

*Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5 years*

Count on having a great time at 1, 2, Buckle My Shoe! Families will enjoy songs and books focusing on counting and early math. Classes feature easy ways for children to incorporate counting into their lives, exploring numbers through crafts, educational games, and activities

**Sundays, April 12–May 10**

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

### Alphabet Explorers

*Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5 years*

Join us on an alphabet-inspired adventure filled with great rhymes and books, educational games, and amazing art experiences. Using blocks, Play-Doh, and magnets, we'll play and learn about letters together. Young participants will also enjoy singing different versions of the alphabet song!

**Thursdays, April 9–May 14**

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

### Dancing Feet

*Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5 years*

Tap your toes and move those feet as the Kinder Links team teaches some groovy moves! Enjoy lively music and rhythms as you express yourself creatively. As we dance and move, we'll explore shapes, colours, numbers, and animals. Wear comfy clothes and bring indoor shoes and a water bottle for this free dance program!

**Saturdays, April 11–May 9**

11–11:45 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

**Sundays, April 12–May 10**

11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.

Westview School

### Soccer Stars Storytime

*Best enjoyed by children ages 2 ½ to 5 years*

Soccer enthusiasts are sure to get a "kick" out of this high-energy class! Each session starts with warm-up activities and stretching our bodies. We'll have fun working as a team, practising skills like dribbling, passing, shooting, and cheering on our new friends. Circle time will feature a variety of favourite Kinder Links songs and stories.

**Thursdays, April 9–May 7**

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

### All Aboard the 'Friend Ship'

*Best enjoyed by children ages 3 to 5 years*

Join the crew as we set sail on an interesting voyage filled with songs, books, puppets, and games. On the "Friend Ship," participants will have fun learning about being a good friend, taking turns, understanding and managing their emotions, and developing problem-solving skills.

**Tuesdays, April 7–May 12**

12:30–1:45 p.m.

Westview School



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### ONE-OFF SESSIONS

*These small group sessions will be held in the Kinder Links classroom, and are best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years*

### Earth Day Artists

The Kinder Links team is excited to celebrate Earth Day through colourful artwork, preschool stories, and environmentally themed activities. This special event is an excellent opportunity for the whole family to develop a deeper appreciation of the world around us and how we can take better care of our planet.

**Monday, April 20**

12:30–1:45 p.m.  
Westview School

**Wednesday, April 22**

12:30–1:45 p.m.  
5:45–6:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

### Going on a Picnic Storytime

Let's celebrate the start of spring with a picnic playdate with our pals at Kinder Links! This session is packed full of spring songs, educational games and stories about tasty picnic foods and little ants who'd love to join our party. Get ready to play 'Guess what's in the picnic basket'!

**Wednesday, April 15**

5:45–6:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

**Thursday, April 23**

12:30–1:30 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

**Monday, May 4**

12:30–1:45 p.m.  
Westview School

### Pirate & Princess Storytime

Yo ho, yo ho! Join us for a royally wonderful class filled with songs, stories, counting games, and pirate- and princess-themed activities. Together we will play like pirates, waltz like princesses, and swing into action like a brave superhero. Participants are encouraged to dress up for this epic adventure!

**Monday, April 13**

12:30–1:45 p.m.  
Westview School

**Thursday, April 30**

12:30–1:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

**Wednesday, May 6**

5:45–6:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

### Up, Up & Away Storytime

Time is sure to FLY as we have fun at this new story time experience! Through songs and stories, young aviators will embark on an exciting adventure featuring planes, helicopters, kites, balloons, and other interesting things that soar through the skies. This high-energy program is filled with your favourite Kinder Links songs, active games, and a flight-themed art experience.

**Wednesday, April 8**

5:45–6:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

**Thursday, April 16**

12:30–1:45 p.m.  
Maple Leaf School

**Monday, April 27**

12:30–1:45 p.m.  
Westview School



## PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registration begins immediately by completing the [Online Registration Form](#), emailing us at [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca), or leaving us a message at 204.669.4043.

Upon registration, you'll receive a confirmation email that your request has been processed. Before the start of each program, participants will receive a reminder email and phone call.



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### VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

Sign up for as many VIRTUAL programs and special events as your schedule allows. To ensure the best experience, we encourage parents and children to participate in these program activities together. You'll enjoy this quality time learning, laughing, and making memories as a family. Get comfortable, cuddle up, and enjoy interesting literacy and numeracy activities with your Kinder Links facilitators.

### VIRTUAL Going on a Picnic

Here's to a virtual picnic playdate to celebrate the start of spring! This class is packed full of spring songs, educational ideas and stories about tasty foods, kites, and little ants who'd love to join the picnic. Can you guess what's in the picnic basket each week?

**Mondays, April 13–May 11**  
10–10:30 a.m.

### VIRTUAL Up, Up, and Away!

Time is sure to FLY as we are having fun at this new VIRTUAL experience! Through songs and stories, young aviators will embark on an exciting adventure featuring planes, helicopters, kites, balloons, and other interesting things that soar through the skies. This high-energy program is filled with your favourite Kinder Links songs, active games, and an idea for flight-themed craft to try at home.

**Tuesdays, April 7–May 12**  
10–10:30 a.m.

### Virtual Hooray for Heroes & Helpers

Together, we will learn about special community helpers who live, work, and positively contribute to our neighbourhoods. Through songs, books, and educational games, we will discover the everyday heroes and helpers, like police officers, doctors, dentists, librarians, and others, who make our streets safer and our lives richer.

**Wednesdays, April 8–May 13**  
10–10:30 a.m.  
*Cancelled April 22*

### VIRTUAL Whale Tales

Join our virtual school of fish for an exciting, educational, under-the-sea adventure. Together, we'll learn about baby sharks, jellyfish, crabs, and magnificent whales. Participants will love diving into fantastic books, games, and math activities that celebrate our friends who live in the deep blue sea.

**Thursdays, April 9–May 14**  
10–10:30 a.m.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### VIRTUAL Bunny Tales Extravaganza

Hop into an egg-citing Easter adventure with your friends at Kinder Links! Bunnies, books, and bingo will be just a few highlights at this free virtual special event. Together, we'll sing about colourful Easter eggs, play "What's in the Basket?" and talk about interesting craft ideas to try at home.

**Monday, April 6**  
10–10:45 a.m.

#### VIRTUAL Celebrating Earth Day

The Kinder Links team is excited to celebrate Earth Day through special stories, songs, and environmentally themed activities. This special event is an excellent opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation of the world around us and how we can take better care of our planet.

**Wednesday, April 22**  
10–10:45 a.m.

### VIRTUAL PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registration begins immediately by completing the [Online Registration Form](#), emailing us at [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca), or leaving us a message at 204.669.4043.

Upon registration, you'll receive a confirmation email that your request has been processed. Before the start of each program, participants will receive a reminder email and phone call.

### OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING

*No registration required*

#### Rhyme Time in the Park

*Best enjoyed by babies and children birth to age 5*

Sunshine, songs and stories are a great way to meet new friends and enjoy the fresh, spring air! During our time at the park, we'll dance, play with the parachute, enjoy group games and try out the play structure and swings. Watch for colourful puppets who will join these rhyme time sessions to teach us new songs about the springtime.

Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair for circle time activities. Remember to dress for the weather. In the event of rain, class will be cancelled.

**Tuesdays, May 19–June 2**  
10:30–11:30 a.m.  
Victoria Jason Park  
255 Redonda St. (by play structure)

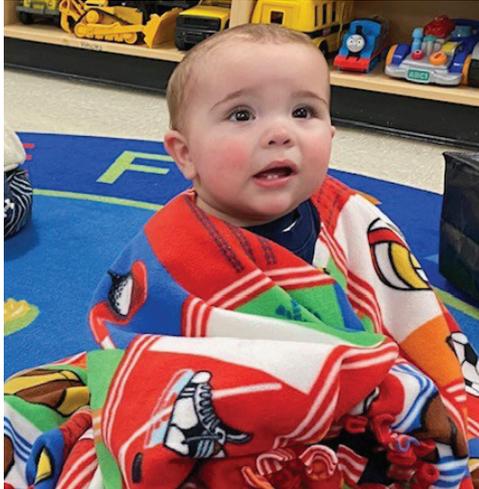
**Wednesdays, May 20–June 3**  
10:30–11:30 a.m.  
McLeod Park  
482 McLeod Ave. (by play structure)

**Thursdays, May 21–June 4**  
10:30–11:30 a.m.  
Bunn's Creek Park, 365 McIvor Ave.  
(by the play structure)



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For updates on these programs, join the Kinder Links mailing list by completing this form: [Kinder Links Mailing List 2025–26](#). You may also join or by contacting us at [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca) or 204.669.4043.

### FREE BABY GIFT FOR NEW PARENTS

Did you just have a baby? RETSD and the Early Childhood Matters Parent Child Coalitions in River East and Transcona would like to help you celebrate this wonderful event. We have a book, *I Love It When You*, which we'd love to give to you to keep and enjoy. To receive your FREE book, contact us at [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca) or 204.669.4043. Please leave us your mailing address, child's name, and date of birth.



## COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

### Registering for Kindergarten

Registration begins on Monday, March 2, 2026. You will be required to provide proof of age documentation for your child (e.g., birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, Manitoba Health Card, INAC status card, birth registration signed by the director of Vital Statistics). You will also be asked for two pieces of identification for proof of residency (e.g., driver's licence, Manitoba Health Card, tenancy agreement, offer to purchase documents, utility bill).

Registration packages are available at all schools and on their websites at Documents & Forms > Registration. Contact your child's designated school or visit their website for information about their registration process.

Information about our FREE Countdown to Kindergarten programs will be available in late spring.

### KINDER LINKS PEN PALS

Introduce your child (ages three to five) to the joys of reading and writing through the Kinder Links Pen Pals Program! Our team of Kinder Links facilitators is looking forward to receiving letters. As a pen pal, your child will receive a special package in the mail featuring a short letter, songs or rhymes, a joke, stickers, and a seasonal activity. Every letter sent to the Kinder Links office will receive a fun-filled reply.

Kinder Links Pen Pals is an excellent way to get your child excited about literacy while they have fun practising their printing, drawing, and numeracy skills. Submissions can be mailed to:

**Kelly Martino**  
Kinder Links Office  
Maple Leaf School  
251 McIvor Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R2G 0Z7

### THE EARLY LEARNING TEAM

We're pleased to provide early learning and family support to families living in River East Transcona. Feel free to contact us if you have questions about our preschool initiatives.

#### Ryan Francis

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#### Maureen Vaags

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#### Kelly Martino

Community Programming Co-ordinator—  
Preschool  
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## Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

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The Board of Trustees meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. You are welcome to attend, either in person or online. For more information about the Board of Trustees, visit: [www.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.retsd.mb.ca) > Your RETSD > Board of Trustees