



Countdown to Kindergarten—Preparing for the Adventure of School | Issue 2, 2025

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



COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Starting kindergarten is a big step for both you and your child. As a parent or caregiver, you want your child to have a happy, successful school life. In River East Transcona School Division, we're ready to help your family prepare for the adventure of school. Kinder Links is pleased to offer many fantastic (and FREE!) programs geared towards getting your child excited to start kindergarten.

LITERACY LINKS VISITS

Literacy Links Visits are FREE and take place at Maple Leaf School, 251 McIvor Ave., and Westview School, 600 Hoka St. Parents and caregivers are required to stay onsite to play, learn, and support their child(ren). The visits are interactive, play-based sessions designed to help your child get ready for school.

Each visit is about 45 minutes in length and offered in a small group setting.

Book a total of four FREE visits!

Literacy Links Visits are filled with interesting educational activities, stories, and art experiences that will enhance your child(ren)'s skills and understanding of the concepts of print, rhyming, sound recognition, and early math. Young participants will also get to practise fine motor skills, like using scissors and printing the letters in their name. Take-home activities will be provided at the end of each session to continue the fun after your visit.



During June, Literacy Links Visits are offered *once per week for four consecutive weeks* at Maple Leaf and Westview. Select the dates that work best for your family: Mondays from June 2–23, Tuesdays from June 3–24, Wednesdays from June 4–25, Thursdays from June 5–26, or Fridays from June 6–27 (daytime visits only). Available appointment times are:

Mornings (Maple Leaf & Westview)

9:30–10:15 a.m.
10:30–11:15 a.m.
11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Afternoons (only Maple Leaf)

1–1:45 p.m.
2–2:45 p.m.
3–3:45 p.m.

Evenings (Mon. to Thurs., Maple Leaf & Westview)

4:15–5 p.m.
5:15–6 p.m.
6:15–7 p.m.

During July, families are welcome to select their own dates for Literacy Links Visits. They can be booked from Monday to Friday, July 2–31, at Maple Leaf as daily or weekly sessions, or whatever may work best for your family's summer schedule.

To register for Literacy Links Visits, please complete the online form: [Literacy Links Visits REGISTRATION FORM 2025](#)

SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camps are FREE! Parents and caregivers are required to stay onsite to play, learn, and support their child(ren). Siblings are welcome to attend but must be registered in advance.

To register for a summer camp, please complete the online registration form: [Summer Camp REGISTRATION FORM 2025](#)

Kinder Camp

Kindergarten, here we come! Together, we'll explore rhythm and rhyme, as well as letters and numbers, with lively songs, stories, and games. Participants will enjoy turning on their listening ears to become "Sound Detectives" and figure out the special sound of the day, along with getting creative through a colourful art experience. Kinder Camp provides an excellent opportunity to make new friends and talk about how much fun kindergarten will be!

Monday to Friday, July 7–11

9–10:30 a.m.
10–11:30 a.m.
Westview School

Monday to Thursday, July 7–10

5:45–7 p.m.
Westview School

Monday to Friday, July 21–25

9–10:30 a.m.
10–11:30 a.m.
Maple Leaf School

Monday to Thursday, July 21–24

5:45–7 p.m.
Maple Leaf School

Tuesday to Thursday, Aug. 5–7

9–10:30 a.m.
10–11:30 a.m.
5:45–7 p.m.
Maple Leaf School



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Busy Bees

Are you buzzin' with excitement to start kindergarten and meet some great new friends? At this special summer camp, participants will create BEE-eautiful artwork, get playful with numbers, and enjoy an alphabet-inspired dance party. Campers will also learn about BEE-ing a good friend and managing their emotions as they get ready to start school. Circle time fun includes songs, stories, and a puppet show.

Monday to Friday, July 14–18

9–10:30 a.m.

10–11:30 a.m.

Westview School

Monday to Thursday, July 14–17

5:45–7 p.m.

Westview School

Monday to Friday, July 28–Aug. 1

9–10:30 a.m.

10–11:30 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Monday to Thursday, July 28–31

5:45–7 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS

Countdown to Kindergarten Summer Special Events are FREE! Parents and caregivers are required to stay onsite to play, learn, and support their child(ren). Siblings are welcome to attend but must be registered in advance.

To register for Summer Special Events, please complete the online registration form: [Summer Special Events REGISTRATION FORM 2025](#)

Alphabet Explorers

Join us on an alphabet-inspired adventure filled with great books, educational games, and amazing art experiences. Together, we'll sing, explore, and learn all our letters!

Wednesday, July 2

9–10:30 a.m.

1–2:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Thursday, Aug. 7

9–10:30 a.m.

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Oodles of Doodles

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

Friday, July 4

9–10:30 a.m.

1–2:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Wednesday, Aug. 6

1–2:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Painter's Playhouse

Paint some beautiful masterpieces! Young artists will create unique art exploring different textures and rich colours, using fingers, feet, paintbrushes, and interesting household items. This program also features a circle time filled with rhymes, stories, colours, shapes, and interactive games.

Thursday, July 3

9–10:30 a.m.

1–2:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Tuesday, Aug. 5

1–2:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School



Off To School We Go—Outdoor Adventures

This program is FREE and takes place from 6–7 p.m. Parents and caregivers are required to stay onsite to play, learn, and support their child(ren). Siblings are welcome to attend but must be registered in advance.

With the new school year just around the corner, *Off To School We Go—Outdoor Adventures* is an ideal way to wrap up our Countdown to Kindergarten programming! An interactive outdoor event for the entire family, this group program features favourite songs and rhymes, stories, and movement-based games. We'll be happy to help your child get excited about starting school!

After the program, try out the school's play structure and chat with the new friends you've met! Pick the date and location that works best for your schedule. Families are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair for circle time in the school field. **All events run from 6–7 p.m.**

Wednesday, Aug. 6

Bernie Wolfe School
95 Bournais Dr.

Thursday, Aug. 7

John de Graff School
1020 Louelda St.

IT'S FREE!

Countdown to Kindergarten Preschool Growing & Learning Days

Do you have a child who will be starting kindergarten in RETSD in September 2025?

At this FREE event, your child will have the opportunity to enjoy educational games and activities with kindergarten, resource, and gym teachers, play musical instruments, and get their vision and hearing screened. Meet our friendly principals, student support staff, and community service providers to help your child get ready for the adventure of school.

The activities and screening stations take approximately 60 minutes to complete.

Bernie Wolfe, École Centrale, Joseph Teres School, Westview

Wednesday, April 30, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Westview School, 600 Hoka St.

Bertrun E. Glavin, École Salisbury Morse Place, Hampstead, John de Graff, Sherwood School

Thursday, May 8, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Bertrun E. Glavin School, 166 Antrim Rd.

École Margaret-Underhill, Harold Hatcher, Radisson, Wayoata

Wednesday, May 14, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Harold Hatcher School, 500 Redonda St.

Bird's Hill, Donwood, Dr. Hamilton, École Sun Valley, Emerson, John Pritchard, Maple Leaf

Wednesday, May 21, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Emerson School, 323 Emerson Ave.

Angus McKay, École Neil Campbell, École Springfield Heights, Lord Wolseley, Polson, Prince Edward, Princess Margaret

Wednesday, May 28, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Prince Edward School, 649 Brazier St.

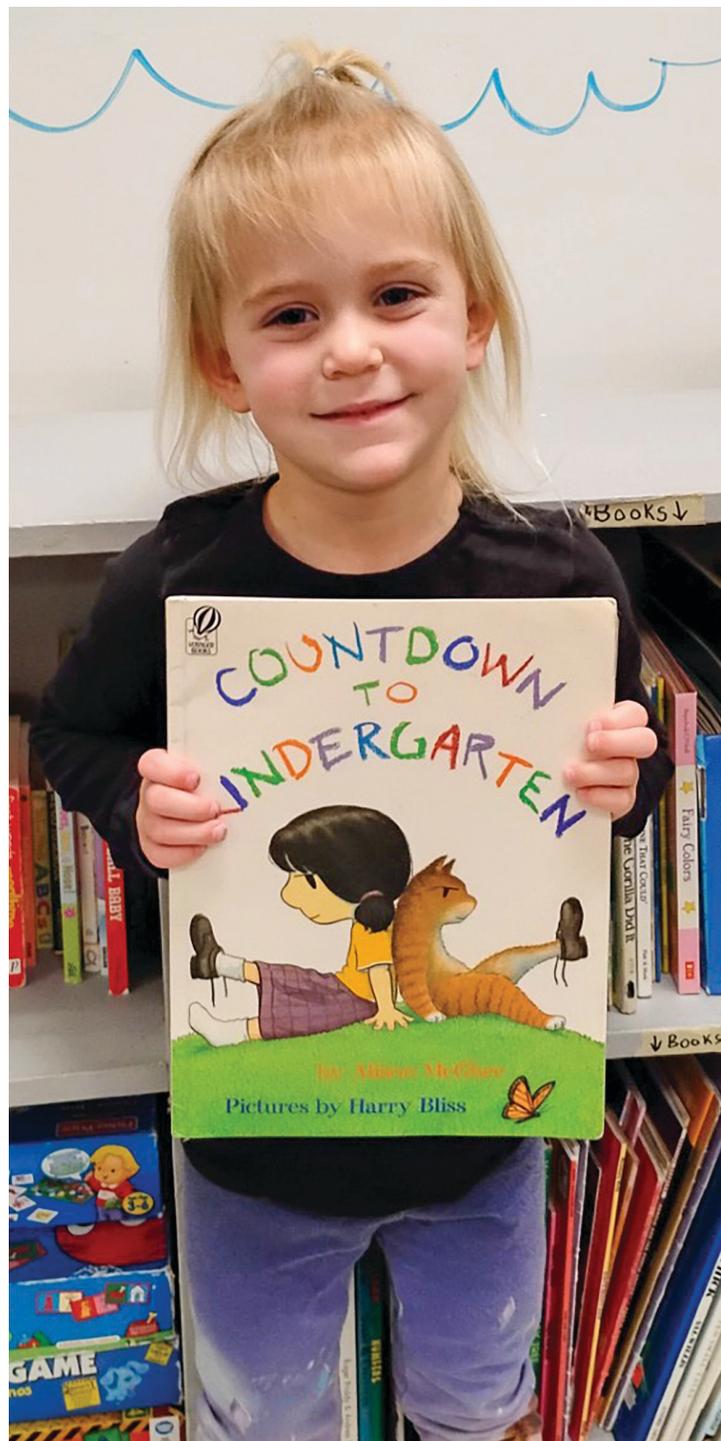
Registration for these events begins March 1, 2025

Register online:



Or call: 204.669.4043

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FREE KINDER LINKS PROGRAMS

Kinder Links programs provide young families—with children birth to age five—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 and 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 help prepare them for the adventure of school. They offer a welcoming, inclusive place where parents and caregivers can meet other families from the community, develop new friendships, and share parenting resources.



We're proud to offer high-quality parent-child programming seven days a week to meet the needs of families living in River East Transcona neighbourhoods. Join in the fun mornings, afternoons, evenings, and weekends from September to June. Visit the Kinder Links page on the RETSD website for a list of parent-child programs, special events, and parenting support workshops.

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 or 204.669.4043. Please leave us your mailing address, child's name, and child's date of birth.



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 regarding our preschool initiatives.

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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 > Your RETSD > Board of Trustees