



Programming for Preschoolers & Their Parents | January to February 2022

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



KINDER LINKS @ HOME

Kinder Links @ Home is **FREE** programming for families with young children living in the River East Transcona community. Kinder Links @ Home features exciting ways to enjoy literacy and numeracy activities from the comfort and safety of your home. Get creative, playful, and passionate about early learning with our **FREE** parent-child programming! Sign up for as many VIRTUAL programs as your schedule allows.

To ensure the best virtual 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.

Arts and crafts packages will be available for pickup as a compliment to virtual feature-length programming. Packages will feature art experiences shown at the end of class for participants to make at home. Information on package pickup will be shared upon registration. Please note: Packages will not be available for *VIRTUAL Baby Bumblebees* and *Twinkle Twinkle Dancing Toes*.

VIRTUAL Baby Bumblebees

Best enjoyed by parents with babies birth to age 1

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 session, parents will enjoy time connecting VIRTUALLY with other new parents.

Thursdays, Jan. 20–Feb. 24
12:30–1:15 p.m.

VIRTUAL Once Upon a Rhyme

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5

Participants are sure to have fun singing traditional nursery rhymes. Together, we will clap, dance, march, and hop along to high-energy favourite songs. Each class features an interactive story experience, including story circles, story vines, and more!

Wednesdays, Jan. 19–Feb. 23
9:30–10 a.m.

VIRTUAL Rise & Shine Storytime

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5

Get your morning off to a fantastic start with light stretches, interactive stories, songs, rhymes, and finger plays. In addition to our weekly song repertoire, children will have the opportunity to request a few favourite songs that we will happily sing together.

Mondays, Jan. 17–Feb. 14
9:30–10 a.m.

NEW VIRTUAL Twinkle Twinkle Dancing Toes

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5

Beloved as a special event, *Twinkle Twinkle Dancing Toes* is now a feature-length program! Tap your toes and move those feet as trained dance instructor Miss Laura and her friends teach us some groovy moves! Enjoy lively music and rhythms as you express yourself creatively. As we dance and move together, we'll explore shapes, colours, numbers, and animals.

Mondays, Jan. 17–Feb. 14
1:30–2 p.m.

Sundays, Jan. 16–Feb. 13
12:30–1 p.m.

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NEW VIRTUAL Colours & Creations!

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Adding a splash of colour to your day, this interactive program will inspire creativity through stories, scavenger hunts, and bingo games. We'll spend time creating together, using common items found around the home and in the complimentary Kinder Links activity kit provided to participants. Learn new songs and finger plays about all your favourite colours.

Wednesdays, Jan. 19–Feb. 23

12:30–1 p.m.

6–6:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL Bookworms

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Together, we will explore fantastic stories written by notable children's authors, learn new songs and fingerplays, and play educational games. At the end of class, your facilitators will share a craft idea to try at home. *New authors and songs for this winter session!*

Mondays, Jan. 17–Feb. 14

12:30–1 p.m.

NEW VIRTUAL Hooray for Heroes and Helpers!

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

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.

Mondays, Jan. 17–Feb. 14

10:30–11 a.m.

VIRTUAL Mr. Golden Sun!

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Bringing a bit of warmth to your wintery day, join us for "fun in the sun" as we sing songs and enjoy summer-inspired stories, games, and crafts to make at home. Feel free to dress for the tropics!

Thursdays, Jan. 20–Feb. 24

10:30–11 a.m.

NEW VIRTUAL Penguin Pals & Winter Friends

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

The more it snows in winter, the happier these cute animal friends will be! This "cool" class features stories, games, and songs about penguins, polar bears, snowy owls, and seals to name just a few. Together, we'll talk about how these animals move, explore, and play on icebergs and snowy arctic tundra.

Tuesdays, Jan. 18–Feb. 22

10:30–11 a.m.

Thursdays, Jan. 20–Feb. 24

9:30–10 a.m.

Saturdays, Jan. 15–Feb. 12

12:30–1 p.m.

NEW VIRTUAL Cool Cats & Puppy Tales

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

A "PURR"-fect class for pet lovers, this program features engaging rhymes/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. Bring your favourite stuffed animal or pet to this virtual play date!

Wednesdays, Jan. 19–Feb. 23

10:30–11 a.m.

Fridays, Jan. 21–Feb. 25

9:30–10 a.m.



NEW VIRTUAL Snowflake Sing Along!

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Warm up your singing voice with this wintery sing-along extravaganza! Stay cozy inside your home as you embark on a virtual snow-filled adventure complete with interesting books, movement games, and art that celebrates a winter wonderland. Together we'll learn all-new winter rhymes and finger plays to add to your song repertoire!

Tuesdays, Jan. 18–Feb. 22

9:30–10 a.m.

6–6:30 p.m.

Fridays, Jan. 21–Feb. 25

10:30–11 a.m.

VIRTUAL All Aboard the Friend Ship

Best enjoyed by children ages 3 to 5

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.

Fridays, Jan. 21–Feb. 25

12:30–1 p.m.

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VIRTUAL SPECIAL EVENTS

Be Our Guest—Virtual Storytime

Kinder Links is excited to welcome special guest readers to join in the virtual fun this spring! We will sing favourite songs/rhymes, play active games, and learn about community resources and services to support families with young children. Each event will feature a different guest reader and stories. Feel free to sign up for as many as you can fit into your schedule.

Monday, Jan. 10

10–10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 11

10–10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Jan. 13

10–10:30 a.m.

Virtual Winter Birds with Birds Hill Provincial Park

Discover why some birds stay in Manitoba for the winter while others head south. Join Lindsey Mitton, senior park interpreter at Birds Hill Provincial Park, for stories and songs about our feathered friends and how they survive the winter. Learn how you can make a bird feeder craft to feed and watch the birds at home.

Thursday, Jan. 13

12:30–1 p.m.



Be My Virtual Valentine

Feel the LOVE at the Kinder Links virtual Valentine's Day party! Together we will enjoy sweet stories about hearts and hugs, Cupid, and the adventures of your favourite storybook characters. It'll be fun to learn a few special songs and counting rhymes and play energetic games to celebrate Valentine's Day. Young participants will also get the chance to share their ideas for showing their friends and family how much they care for them. Registered families will be given the opportunity to pick up a special valentine snack, craft, and activity package to enjoy after the event. Details on the drive-thru pickup dates will be provided upon registration.

Friday, Feb. 11

6–6:45 p.m.

Kinder Links VIRTUAL Birthday Greetings

Celebrate your child's birthday with a special greeting from the Kinder Links team! In this 20-minute VIRTUAL session, a Kinder Links facilitator will sing the happy birthday song to your child, share a book, and play an educational game to help celebrate their big day. Appointments are available afternoons and early evenings. Please note: *VIRTUAL Birthday Greetings* appointments are available for children six years and under, as availability permits, and must be booked in advance.



Registration for Kinder Links programming begins immediately by email at kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca or leave a message at 204.669.4043.

When registering, please provide the following information:

- Parent/caregiver name
- Names and ages of all children to attend the program
- Home address
- Home/cellphone number
- Email address where you wish to be contacted
- Program(s) you wish to register for (name of program, date and time)

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Kinder Links Pen Pals

Introduce your child—ages three to five—to the joys of reading and writing through RETSD's Kinder Links Pen Pals program. Our team of Kinder Links facilitators is looking forward to connecting with preschool families this year. As a Kinder Links Pen Pal, your child will receive a special package in the mail featuring a short letter, notes, songs/rhymes, a joke, stickers, and a seasonal activity to try.

The best part of being a pen pal is writing back! We can hardly wait to start receiving letters/drawings from your child(ren). For every letter sent to the Kinder Links office, we'll reply with a special package filled with fun activities for your child. This is an excellent way to get your child excited about literacy while having fun practising their printing, drawing, and numeracy skills.

Submissions can be mailed to:

Kelly Martino

Kinder Links Office
Joseph Teres School
131 Sanford Fleming Rd.
Winnipeg, MB R2C 5B8

FREE BABY GIFT FOR NEW PARENTS

Did you just have a baby? River East Transcona School Division 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 kmartino@retsd.mb.ca or 204.669.4043. Please leave us your mailing address, child's name, and date of birth.

KINDER LINKS ADVISORY GROUP

Are you interested in sharing your ideas to help shape Kinder Links parent-child programming? We are recruiting new members for our Kinder Links advisory group, which meets virtually to discuss and provide feedback on our free early learning programs. Contact Kinder Links at kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca or 204.669.4043 for more information.

THE EARLY LEARNING TEAM

We are pleased to provide early learning and family support to families living in River East Transcona. Feel free to contact us should you have questions regarding our preschool initiatives.

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