



Programming for Preschoolers & Their Parents | April to May 2025

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



All Kinder Links programs are offered at Maple Leaf School, 251 McIvor Ave., or Westview School, 600 Hoka St. Registration is required for these FREE parent-child classes, unless otherwise noted.

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!

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, 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)

Saturdays, April 5–May 3

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Mondays, April 7–May 26

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled May 19

Fridays, April 25–May 30

10–11:30 a.m.

Monday to Friday, May 20–30

10–11:30 a.m.

WESTVIEW SCHOOL

Please enter the building using the Ravelston Ave. W. entrance doors.

Kinder Links Classroom (Room 26)

Sundays, April 6–May 4

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Cancelled April 20

Tuesdays, April 8–May 27

9:30–11 a.m.

Thursdays, April 10–May 29

9:30–11 a.m.

Fridays, April 25–May 30

9:30–11 a.m.

Tuesday to Friday, May 20–30

9:30–11 a.m.

FEATURE-LENGTH PROGRAMS

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 8–May 13

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Wednesdays, April 9–May 14

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Fridays, April 25–May 16

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Westview School



Weekend Free Play

Best enjoyed by children ages 6 months to 5 years

Join us for a relaxing, loosely structured session where children get to play, create, build, and craft together. Each week, there will be time for stories, songs, and sharing. What a fun way to spend a weekend morning with your friends!

Saturdays, April 5–May 3

9:30–11 a.m.

Westview School

Sundays, April 6–May 4

10–11:30 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Cancelled April 20

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.

Sundays, April 6–May 4

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Westview School

Cancelled April 20



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Hop, Skip & Jump Into Play!

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

This exciting program features active play in the school gym and free play in the Kinder Links classroom. 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.

Saturdays, April 5–May 3

10:30–11:45 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Night Owls

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

Have a hoot playing games, singing songs, and listening to bedtime stories and lullabies at *Night Owls*. Children will love playing with toys and visiting with our friend and puppet, Snowy the Owl, who flies in during our lively rhyme circle.

Mondays, April 7–May 5

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Maple Leaf School



Cool Cats & Puppy Tales

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 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.

Mondays, April 7–May 12

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Westview 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!

Mondays, April 7–May 12

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Westview School

Tuesdays, April 8–May 6

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

Oodles of Doodles

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months 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, such as collages, 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 lively conversation.

Mondays, April 7–May 12

12:30–1:45 p.m.

Maple Leaf 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.

Tuesdays, April 8–May 13

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Wednesdays, April 9–30

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Purple Stew

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

Through books, rhymes, and conversation, this program serves up engaging ways for young participants to learn about food, nutrition, and a healthy lifestyle. At *Purple Stew*, the weekly art experience will be inspired by the kitchen, garden, and even the grocery store, and kids will make a special placemat to use at home. Enjoy playing with the toy kitchen in the Kinder Links classroom and lots of other fun toys, too!

Thursdays, April 10–May 15

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School



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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 that focus 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.

Saturdays, April 5–May 3

9:30–10:45 a.m.
Maple Leaf School

Wednesdays, April 9–May 14

9:45–11 a.m.
Maple Leaf School

Thursdays, April 10–May 8

5:45–6:45 p.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!

Mondays, April 7–May 5

5:45–6:45 p.m.
Westview School

Wednesdays, April 9–May 14

9:30–10:45 a.m.
Westview 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."

Tuesdays, April 8–May 6

5:45–6:45 p.m.
Maple Leaf School



Painter's Playhouse

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5 years

Create some beautiful painted masterpieces! Using fingers and feet, paintbrushes, and interesting household items to create unique art, young artists will explore different textures and rich colours in their painting projects. The program features a circle time filled with rhymes, stories, colours, shapes, and interactive games.

Sundays, April 6–May 4

9:30–10:45 a.m.
Westview School
Cancelled April 20

Fridays, April 25–May 16

12:30–1:45 p.m.
Maple Leaf School



SPRING into Dance!

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5 years

Let's get active and dance our way into the beauty of springtime! Together, we'll tap our toes, move our feet, and listen to music featuring the special colours and creatures of spring. Get ready to fly like birds, flutter like butterflies, hop like bunnies, and leap like frogs. Dancers will enjoy getting creative with colourful juggling scarves and ribbons while grooving to favourite preschool songs. Class ends with a few great spring-themed stories and poems.

Saturdays, April 5–May 3

9:30–10:15 a.m.
Maple Leaf School

Sundays, April 6–May 4

11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.
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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 10–May 8

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

Saturdays, April 5–May 3

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Westview School

Tiny Tumblers

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 ½ to 5 years

Introducing a literacy-based gymnastics program designed to keep little ones moving and have fun while developing their gross motor skills. During this active parent-child session, we’ll warm up and learn the pizza, butterfly, and fishing stretches, as well as the mountain and motorcycle poses.

Our tiny tumblers will have the chance to use scarves and practise basic balancing activities and somersaults. The gym portion of this class is 45 minutes, followed by 30 minutes of free play, crafts, and stories.

Saturdays, April 5–May 3

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Westview School

Sundays, April 6–May 4

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Cancelled April 20

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.

Thursdays, April 10–May 15

12:30–1:45 p.m.

Westview School

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 connecting with preschool families this year. 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. The best part of being a pen pal is writing back! We can hardly wait to start receiving letters or drawings from your child. Every letter sent to the Kinder Links office will receive a fun-filled reply. This 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 Mclvor Ave.

Winnipeg, MB R2G 0Z7

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 date of birth.





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Registration begins immediately by completing the [Online Registration Form](#), emailing us at 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.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Starting kindergarten is a major milestone in your child's educational journey. As you're preparing for the first day of school, please know that your child's school and teacher are preparing to meet both you and your child.

In RETSD, we strive to make our classrooms safe, caring places of learning, where students feel included, respected, secure, and valued. Your child will grow as a learner through activities that encourage inquiry, discovery, imagination, creativity, and problem-solving.

Our staff recognizes that you are your child's first teacher, and we look forward to collaborating with you to make kindergarten both a time for learning and a time for joy.

Kindergarten Registration

While kindergarten registration began on March 3, 2025, you haven't missed the opportunity to register your child. **They're assured placement in their catchment-area school.** So, while we encourage you to

register at your earliest opportunity, please do so at a time that's convenient for your family.

When registering, please 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'll 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).

If you have further questions about the registration process or forms, please contact your child's school directly and they'll assist you. The email addresses and phone numbers of all RETSD schools can be found on our website at retsd.mb.ca > Schools. As well, information about our FREE Countdown to Kindergarten programs can be found on our website at retsd.mb.ca > Parents & Students > Registration. These free programs prepare you and your child for the adventure of kindergarten!.

KINDER LINKS ADVISORY GROUP

Are you interested in sharing your ideas to help shape Kinder Links parent-child programming? We're 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'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.

Jason Drysdale

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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