



KINDERLINKS Indoors



Programming for Preschoolers & Their Parents | January to March 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 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!

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

Kinder Links Classroom (Room 17)

Monday to Friday, Jan. 6–17

10–11:30 a.m.

Mondays, Jan. 6–March 10

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled Feb. 3 & 17

Wednesdays, Jan. 22–March 12

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Tuesday to Friday, March 18–28

10–11:30 a.m.

WESTVIEW SCHOOL

Kinder Links Classroom (Room 26)

Monday to Friday, Jan. 6–17

9:30–11 a.m.



Fridays, Jan. 10–March 28

9:30–11 a.m.

Cancelled Jan. 31 & March 14

Sundays, Jan. 19–March 16

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Tuesday to Friday, March 18–28

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.

Mondays, Jan. 20–March 10

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Westview School

Cancelled Feb. 3 & 17

Tuesdays, Jan. 21–March 11

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Fridays, Feb. 7–March 7

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Westview School

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!

Tuesdays, Jan. 21–March 11

9:30–10:45 a.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, Jan. 18–March 15

10–11:30 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Cancelled Feb. 8

Sundays, Jan. 19–March 16

9–10:30 a.m.

Westview School



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I'm a Little Yogi

Best enjoyed by children ages 21 months to 5 years

I'm a Little Yogi is a fun-loving, supportive parent-child program designed to playfully teach yoga to young children. They will learn interesting yoga poses, including crane, tree, and downward dog. *I'm a Little Yogi* builds the parent-child bond and helps children feel happier and more confident while honouring their explorative and physical nature. Participants are asked to dress comfortably and bring their own yoga mat or blanket for the program.

TOTS CLASS (ages 7 to 20 months)

Saturdays, March 1–22

9:30–10:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

TYKES CLASS (ages 21 months to 5 years)

Saturdays, March 1–22

10:30–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Hey Diddle Diddle

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

Traditional nursery rhymes and stories come alive at *Hey Diddle Diddle!* Get ready for rhyme favourites, including *Itsy-Bitsy Spider*, *Humpty Dumpty*, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, and *Jack and Jill*, to name just a few. A variety of colourful puppet friends will join us as we play educational games and activities. Kids will really enjoy making nursery-rhyme-inspired crafts to take home.

Tuesdays, Jan. 21–March 11

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Thursdays, Jan. 16–March 13

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Sundays, Jan. 19–Feb. 23

10–11:15 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 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.

Sundays, Jan. 19–March 16

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Westview School

Sundays, March 2–23

9:15–10:30 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

NEW PROGRAM!

Little Snowflakes: Gym & Jamboree

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

Join us for a cool gym and jamboree program this winter! During this high-energy class, we'll all stay warm dancing like snowflakes, playing with the parachute, and enjoying group games to explore the gym. Circle time fun includes winter songs and rhymes as families play musical instruments and form a marching band.

Thursdays, Jan. 16–Feb. 27

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

Fridays, Jan. 17–Feb. 28

5:45–7 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Saturdays, Jan. 18–Feb. 22

9:30–11 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Cancelled Feb. 8



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.

Tuesdays, Jan. 14–March 11

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

Once Upon a Rhyme

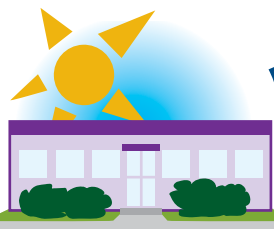
Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 3 years

Busy toddlers are sure to have a great time at *Once Upon a Rhyme!* This fast-paced program features favourite movement-based activities, songs, and felt-board fun. Young participants will also meet colourful puppets who will make story time even more interesting. Each class features the chance to play, build, and make artwork.

Thursdays, Jan. 23–March 13

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School



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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.

Tuesdays, Jan. 14–March 11

5:45–6:45 p.m.
Maple Leaf School
Cancelled Feb. 18

Wednesdays, Jan. 22–March 12

9:30–10:45 a.m.
Westview School

Saturdays, Jan. 18–March 15

10–11:15 a.m.
Westview School
Cancelled Feb. 8

Let It Snow

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

From the warmth of our classroom, we'll celebrate the magic of winter with songs, rhymes, and stories about snow! During our time together, participants will learn cool facts about snowflakes, penguins, and polar bears, and even try a few experiments with snow. Winter-themed crafts are sure to be a highlight each class.

Mondays, Jan. 20–Feb. 24

5:45–6:45 p.m.
Maple Leaf School
Cancelled Feb. 17



Leap Frogs

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

Hop into our school gym 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. All participants are asked to bring indoor shoes to wear in the gym.

Saturdays, Jan. 18–March 15

11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Westview School
Cancelled Feb. 8

Thursdays, March 6–27

5:45–6:45 p.m.
Westview 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, Jan. 23–March 13

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Westview School



Shake, Rattle & Rhyme

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

We've got the beat! During this musically themed class, participants will play a variety of instruments, like maracas, cymbals, drums, and tambourines. Imagine how much fun we'll have singing, dancing, and getting active using colourful scarves and ribbons!

Tuesdays, Jan. 21–March 11

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.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.

Wednesdays, Jan. 15–March 12

5:45–6:45 p.m.
Maple Leaf School

Whale Tales

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

Journey under the sea for an adventure where we'll play, learn, and laugh. Together, we'll dive into fantastic books, games, and math activities celebrating our friends who live in the deep blue sea. Enjoy participating in a seaside serenade and making an underwater craft

Thursdays, Jan. 23–March 13

9:30–10:45 a.m.
Westview School



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Wheels on the Bus

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

Drivers, start your engines and join us for a fast-paced, action-packed literacy program! Together, we'll explore the world of cars, trucks, buses, and construction vehicles with songs, stories, and interactive games. Before the checkered flag signals the end of class, participants will enjoy a creative art experience with a transportation theme.

Mondays, Jan. 20–March 10

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Westview School

Cancelled Feb. 3 & 17

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, Jan. 18–March 15

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Cancelled Feb. 8

Sundays, Jan. 19–March 16

11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.

Westview School

Diggin' with the Dinos

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5 years

Be prepared to have a "ROARing" good time as we bravely explore the world of dinosaurs both large and small. On this journey, participants will learn about the T-Rex, Stegosaurus, and other interesting dinosaur friends through songs, books, puzzles, active games, and creative art experiences.

Fridays, Feb. 7–March 7

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Sundays, March 2–23

10–11:15 a.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 and shapes, and interactive games.

Mondays, Jan. 13–March 10

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

Cancelled Feb. 17

Wednesdays, Jan. 22–March 12

9:45–11 a.m.

Maple Leaf 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.

Sundays, Jan. 19–Feb. 23

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Maple Leaf 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, Jan. 18–March 15

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Westview School

Cancelled Feb. 8

Sundays, Jan. 19–March 16

11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

The Paper Bag Princess: A Puppetry Workshop

This performance/workshop is geared for children 3 to 5 years and older due to the size of pieces used to create each child's puppet

One of Robert Munsch's most popular stories comes to life with a princess, a prince, and a castle. But we've forgotten the most important character—the dragon, of course! Each child will create their own dragon puppet with a movable mouth and stick-on wings, scales, tongue, and eyes. Then, we'll read through the story with their puppets playing the important dragon role. They'll fly around the world—and perhaps even write their own ending! (Families are invited to stay and play in the Kinder Links classroom following the performance.)

Saturday, Jan. 11

9:30–10:15 a.m.

10:30–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Penguin Pals Yoga & Story Time

Best enjoyed by children ages 21 months to 5 years

Join us for a leisurely Sunday morning event filled with yoga, storytelling, songs and rhymes, and even an art experience. Led by trained yoga instructor Cathy Spack and Kinder Links facilitators, we'll stretch our bodies with favourite yoga poses, including the snowy owl, polar bear, and arctic fox, to name just a few. (Families are invited to stay and play in the school gym or Kinder Links classroom following yoga.)

Sunday, Jan. 12

10–11 a.m.

Maple Leaf School



Sweethearts Valentine's Day Party

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

Feel the LOVE at our Sweethearts Valentine's Day Party! Stroll from station to station to enjoy sweet songs, stories, art experiences, and games celebrating hearts and hugs and the adventures of your favourite storybook characters. Remember to wear red, pink, or purple to this Valentine's Day celebration. These large-group events take place in the school gym.

Saturday, Feb. 8

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

Little Leprechauns

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

Families will have fun finding large green shamrocks, making gold and rainbow crafts, reading stories about leprechauns, and getting active with fun games and activities. These events end with a lively circle time where we'll do an Irish jig and learn a few new songs and fingerplays. Remember to wear green! These special events will be held in the Kinder Links classrooms.

Monday, March 17

10–11:15 a.m.

12:30–1:45 p.m.

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Monday, March 17

9:30–10:45 a.m.

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

Registration begins immediately by completing the [Online Registration Form](#), emailing us at kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca, or leaving 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, know that your child's school and teacher are preparing to meet both you and your child.

In River East Transcona School Division, 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

Registration begins on **Monday, March 3, 2025**. 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 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 will be made 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. For updates on these programs, join the Kinder Links mailing list by contacting us at kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca or 204.669.4043.



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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.

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, songs, 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 and 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 McIvor Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R2G 0Z7

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 if you have questions about our preschool initiatives.

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204.667.7130
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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