



## Programming for Preschoolers & Their Parents | January to March 2026

204.669.4043 • [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto: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!

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

### 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 Mclvor Ave. Kinder Links Classroom (Room 17)

**Monday-Friday, Jan. 5–16**

10–11:30 a.m.

**Mondays, Jan. 5–Mar. 23**

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled Feb. 2 & 16

**Fridays, Jan. 9–Mar. 27**

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled Jan. 30 & Mar. 20

**Monday-Friday, Mar. 16–27**

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled Mar. 20

### WESTVIEW SCHOOL

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

**Monday-Friday, Jan. 5–16**

10–11:30 a.m.

**Fridays, Jan. 9–Mar. 27**

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled Jan. 30 & Mar. 20

**Sundays, Jan. 18–Mar. 15**

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled Feb. 15

**Tuesdays, Jan. 20–Mar. 24**

10–11:30 a.m.

**Monday-Friday, Mar. 16–27**

10–11:30 a.m.

Cancelled Mar. 20

### 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, Jan. 17–Mar. 14**

10:45 a.m.–12 p.m.

Westview School

Cancelled Feb. 14

**Sundays, Jan. 18–Mar. 15**

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

Cancelled Feb. 15

### 4-WEEK MINI PROGRAMS

Advance registration required

#### Let It Snow

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 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. Cool winter-themed crafts are sure to be a highlight each class.

**Tuesdays, Jan. 6–27**

12:30–1:45 p.m.

Westview School

**Wednesdays, Jan. 7–28**

12:30–1:45 p.m.

Maple Leaf School





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### 8-WEEK FEATURE PROGRAMS

*Advance 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, Jan. 20–Mar. 10**

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

**Wednesdays, Jan. 21–Mar. 11**

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Westview School

**Thursdays, Jan. 22–Mar. 12**

12:30–1:30 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!

**Thursdays, Jan. 22–Mar. 12**

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 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.

**Saturdays, Jan. 17–Mar. 14**

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Westview School

*Cancelled Feb. 14*

#### 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. 20–Mar. 10**

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

#### Old MacDonald's Farmyard Friends

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years*

MacDonald's farm is quite a busy place with cute barnyard friends wandering all over! On this imaginary field trip, we'll see colourful puppets, read books about animals and farm equipment, and play active games and activities! E-I-E-I oh what fun we'll have in this farmyard program!

**Tuesdays, Jan. 20–Mar. 10**

10–11:15 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.

**Wednesdays, Jan. 21–Mar. 11**

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

#### Shake, Rattle & Rhyme

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 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!

**Saturdays, Jan. 17–Mar. 14**

10–11:15 a.m.

Westview School

*Cancelled Feb. 14*







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### Jungle Gym

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years*

Step inside the school gymnasium to take a fast-paced jungle journey with your friends at Kinder Links! Through stories, fingerplays and art, we'll meet majestic animals like lions, gorillas, and hippos. Each class features free play with gym equipment and jungle-inspired group games and activities.

**Sundays, Jan. 18–Feb. 22**

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Westview School

*Cancelled Feb. 15*

### 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. 22–Mar. 12**

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

**Fridays, Jan. 16–Mar. 13**

5:45–7 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

**Saturdays, Jan. 17–Mar. 14**

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

*Cancelled Feb. 14*

### 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 to 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, Jan. 19–Mar. 9**

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Westview School

*Cancelled Feb. 16*

### 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!

**Thursdays, Jan. 22–Mar. 12**

10–11:15 a.m.

Westview School

**Sundays, Jan. 18–Mar. 15**

10–11:30 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

*Cancelled Feb. 15*

### 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.

**Sundays, Mar. 1–22**

10–10:45 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

**Mondays, Jan. 19–Mar. 9**

10–11:15 a.m.

Westview School

*Cancelled Feb. 2 & 16*

**Wednesdays, Jan. 21–Mar. 11**

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, Jan. 19–Mar. 9**

5:45–6:45 p.m.

Maple Leaf School

*Cancelled Feb. 16*



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### 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.

**Saturdays, Jan. 17–Mar. 14**

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

*Cancelled Feb. 14*

**Wednesdays, Jan. 21–Mar. 11**

10–11:15 a.m.

Westview 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, Jan. 17–Mar. 14**

11–11:45 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

*Cancelled Feb. 14*

**Sundays, Jan. 18–Mar. 15**

11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.

Westview School

*Cancelled Feb. 15*



### SPECIAL EVENTS—LARGE GROUP SESSIONS

*This large group event takes place in the school gymnasium*

#### Sweethearts Valentine's Day Party

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years*

Feel the LOVE at the Kinder Links 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.

**Saturday, Feb. 14**

10–11:15 a.m.

Maple Leaf 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.



### 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. 18–Mar. 15**

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Maple Leaf School

*Cancelled Feb. 15*





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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 ABCs & 123s

Explore numbers and letters with engaging rhymes, fingerplays, stories, and movement games. Classes feature fun ways for children to incorporate literacy and numeracy into their day. At the end of each session, your facilitators will share an activity challenge to try at home.

**Mondays, Jan. 12–Mar. 2**

10–10:30 a.m.

*Cancelled Feb. 16*



### VIRTUAL Pirate & Princess Playtime

Yo ho, yo ho! Join us for a royally wonderful evening 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, Jan 12–Mar. 2**

6–6:30 p.m.

*Class cancelled Feb. 16*

### VIRTUAL Penguin Pals & Winter Friends

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. 13–Mar. 3**

10–10:30 a.m.

### VIRTUAL The Breakfast Bunch Story Time

Breakfast, books, and time with your buddies make this virtual experience a wonderful way to start the day with a big smile! During this morning session, our happy little group will learn counting rhymes and fingerplays, play bingo, and dance to get energized for the day ahead.

**Wednesdays, Jan. 14–Mar. 4**

10–10:30 a.m.

### VIRTUAL Wheels on the Bus

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, Kinder Links facilitators will give participants an interesting idea for a creative art experience that can be made at home.

**Thursdays, Jan. 15–Mar. 5**

10–10:30 a.m.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Be My VIRTUAL Valentine

Feel the LOVE at the Kinder Links virtual Valentine's Day party! Together, we'll 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 to play energetic games to celebrate Valentine's Day. Young participants will also get to share their ideas for showing their friends and family how much they care for them.

**Friday, Feb. 13**

10–10:45 a.m.

#### VIRTUAL Little Leprechauns

Enjoy stories about lucky little leprechauns while learning a few songs and finger plays! Participants will have fun counting shamrocks, dancing an Irish jig, and playing lively games and activities.

**Tuesday, March 17**

10–10:45 a.m.

### VIRTUAL @HOME 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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### COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Starting kindergarten is a major milestone in your child's educational journey. As you are 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### 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](mailto: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.

#### Ryan Francis

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#### Maureen Vaags

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#### Kelly Martino

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

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#### Ward 5

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