

Kindergarten First-Year Checklist

Routines, questions and a calm school transition

A calm start matters

Kindergarten readiness is not a test. Focus on predictable routines, communication with the school, safe transitions and gradual independence.

Before the first day

- ☐ Complete registration and confirm the designated school.
- ☐ Confirm transportation, walking route and authorized pickup arrangements.
- ☐ Ask about before- and after-school care if required.
- ☐ Follow the school's process for allergies, medication and medical conditions.
- ☐ Label clothing, lunch containers and comfort items permitted by the school.
- ☐ Practise opening lunch containers, using the washroom, dressing and asking an adult for help.

Build a simple home routine

- ☐ Use a consistent bedtime and morning sequence.
- ☐ Read and talk together in the family's strongest language.
- ☐ Practise short separations and a predictable goodbye.
- ☐ Ask open questions: What made you curious? Who helped you? What should we practise?
- ☐ Keep the first weeks light enough for rest and play.

Questions for the teacher

How does my child join routines?

Communication or language

Friendships and belonging

Emerging strengths

One home-school action

Official starting points

<https://www.ycdsb.ca/programs-services/kindergarten/>

<https://www.ycdsb.ca/programs-services/kindergarten/faqs/>