



EVERY DAY!

WTK Learning Through Play Series 2023 - Issue 3

DEAR KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES:

Welcome to Issue 3! We hope that you and your family have been enjoying the various Learning through Play activities at home and have had the opportunity to explore our Blog.

In this issue, we hope you will enjoy continuing to talk, read, create and play, everyday, with your child!

Soon, you will be invited to attend a Welcome to Kindergarten Family Orientation session, where your child will receive a bag of learning resources. This will give you an opportunity to explore more ways to play and learn as your child prepares for Kindergarten

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INSIDE

- 2 TALKING & READING TOGETHER – Rhyme Time
- 3 EXPLORING MATH TOGETHER – Fingers, Fingers!
- 3 COUNTING ON
- 4 PATTERNING
- 4 FINDING LETTERS & NUMBERS IN NATURE
- 5 PLAYING OUTDOORS TOGETHER – Mud Pies
- 5 CREATIVE EXPLORATION – Collage
- 6 EXPLORING FEELINGS TOGETHER – Calming Kit

TALKING AND READING TOGETHER

RHYME TIME

Hearing rhymes in words is important for learning to read.

- Try singing songs, reading poems and making up your own rhymes (e.g., The fat cat is wearing a hat).
- See the link to the Welcome to Kindergarten music at the end of this newsletter. Can you find rhymes in the many WTK songs?

<https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/ten-fun-interactive-songs/>

*Hey diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed,
to see such sport
and the dish ran away with the spoon.*



WHY IT MATTERS

Reading provides children with a wide range of ideas, views and experiences.



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EXPLORING MATH TOGETHER

FINGERS, FINGERS!

Children need experience counting to fully understand number concepts. Let's start with our fingers!

- Hold your hands behind your back.
- Together with your child chant:
"Fingers, fingers, 1, 2, 3.
How many fingers do you see?"
- Using two hands, hold up three fingers.
- Children can say 'three' or show three with their fingers.
- Vary how you show each number on your fingers.
Example: five can be two and three fingers or one and four fingers. It is important to show five in many ways before slowly moving up to 10.



WHY IT MATTERS

Math helps children build confidence and make sense of the world around them.



COUNTING ON

Counting on is an important math concept for children.

- When going up or down stairs, count the first four steps, stop, and then count on with five, six, etc., rather than starting back at one.
- Encourage your child to predict how many steps it is from their bedroom to the kitchen, or how many scoops of cereal it will take to fill their bowl. Then compare the actual number of steps or scoops.
- Place the magnetic numbers in a container. Take turns pulling a number out of the container. Name the number and then count on to 10 after identifying the number you have pulled!

PATTERNING

- Look for collections of objects in your house, for example: rocks/gems, clothespins, blocks, cars/trucks, beads, buttons, animal figures, etc..
- Create patterns using these items. For example, make a patterned necklace using beads and string: red bead, blue bead, yellow bead, red bead,
- Look for patterns in nature, in the community, and in books. There are patterns in leaves/plants, animal markings, fence designs, windows in buildings, etc.



Source: Canadian Education Warehouse CE6942 (Learning Advantage)

FINDING LETTERS & NUMBERS IN NATURE!



Letters and numbers can be found everywhere in the world around you. You can also use everyday objects to recreate letters and tell stories.

- Walk around your community and point out all the letters and numbers you can see
- Use sticks, leaves, petals, etc. to form different numbers, letters and words (e.g., your child's name)
- Draw or take pictures of the letters and numbers you find or make

PLAYING OUTDOORS TOGETHER



WHY IT MATTERS

Fresh air and movement supports problem-solving, independence, creativity, and physical development.



MUD PIES

- Add some water to dirt to make your own mud
- Explore the mud with your hands – mould and shape it
- Find some treasures to add to your mud pie!

CREATIVE EXPLORATION



WHY IT MATTERS: A RECAP

1. Children develop independence, problem-solving and thinking skills through creative exploration.
2. Children develop and express their unique personalities through art and movement opportunities.
3. Daily physical activity and creative exploration helps children develop muscle control and coordination.

COLLAGE



Collage is a fun art experience using various types of materials such as newspaper, magazines and recycled materials.

- Encourage your child to create art by gluing smaller pieces of torn paper onto a larger piece.
- Use outdoor collections like twigs, petals and leaves to create a nature collage.
- Use your imaginations and have fun creating original art together!

EXPLORE FEELINGS TOGETHER

WHY IT MATTERS

Children learn to understand and manage their feelings, which helps them feel and show empathy for others, and resolve conflict.



CALMING KIT

- Gather some materials that help your child to feel calm, such as a squeeze ball, a bag filled with rice or sand, a family picture, fidget toys etc.
- Put these items in a box or bag that can be easily accessed by your child.
- Encourage your child to use these calming materials when they are feeling sad or upset.



TALKING AND SINGING BUILD:



- relationships
- memory
- rhythm & rhyme
- belonging
- enjoyment of music
- listening & speaking skills
- an appreciation for cultural stories & oral traditions

READING BUILDS:



- vocabulary
- a sense of story
- knowledge
- print, letter & number awareness

CREATING BUILDS:



- problem-solving skills
- imagination & personal expression
- small & large muscle control and coordination
- measurement, geometry & spatial sense

PLAYING BUILDS:



- self-awareness & regulation
- math concepts & vocabulary
- confidence & well-being
- empathy & understanding
- decision-making skills
- cooperation physical skills
- curiosity



YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND BEST TEACHER!

- Follow your child's lead as you play and discover together
- Talk and read with your child in your first language
- Help your child to share and take turns
- Encourage your child to make choices and decisions
- Celebrate your child's learning



MORE RESOURCES TO EXPLORE



We hope you enjoyed reading this issue of LTP.

Many other resources can be found on our blog! Check it out regularly to discover extra tips on how you can support your child's development.

You are your child's first and best teacher, so have fun talking, reading, creating and playing every day!

<https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/blog/>

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