



Welcome to Kindergarten™
CANADIAN EDUCATION WAREHOUSE

FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE



Welcome to Kindergarten™!

We hope that you and your child enjoy the resources found in the Welcome to Kindergarten™ (WTK) kit. At Welcome to Kindergarten™, we believe in families talking, reading, creating and playing, every day!

The materials in this WTK Kit support development in language and literacy, problem-solving, social/emotional development, and physical skills.

WTK resources include books, an exclusive edition of **Chirp** magazine, a set of magnetic upper and lower case letters and numbers 0-9, alphabet and number templates, a pack of 16 crayons in both primary and skin tone colours, left/right handed safety scissors, a six-sided die with activity cards, and this *Family Activity Guide*.



Enjoy learning and playing together. This **Family Activity Guide** provides some suggestions of activities you can do with the Welcome to Kindergarten™ resources at home.

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.

Talking about Feelings Together

Children are learning to name their feelings (e.g., happy, sad, angry, afraid) and understand that all humans have a range of emotions based on different experiences and situations.

Help your child to learn about feelings by:

- Talking about feelings, ones that feel good and ones that feel uncomfortable. You can help by saying "How would you feel if..." (e.g., you were invited to a birthday party, you spilled milk on the floor, your brother wouldn't let you have a turn with the ball).
- Read **All About Feelings** (p.6) in WTK **Chirp** magazine. Talk about feelings in the other books you read together.
- Use the pocket dice cards to make feeling faces. Talk about why we all have feelings.



Literacy Play

As you talk and read with your child every day, you are developing a special bond and building your child's skills in language, thinking and knowledge about the world.





Here are some suggestions for literacy play with your child:

- Make daily reading a fun, interactive and special time. Explore all kinds of books: story books, information books on your child's interests, poetry, rhyming books and of course, favourite books you like to read over and over together. Cuddle and have fun reading in different voices!
- Enjoy reading **Welcome to Kindergarten**. Talk about school and what your child might be doing helps prepare children for the transition to Kindergarten. The simple text is written to support children as they learn to read.
- Sign your child up for a library card and investigate on-line reading resources that you can enjoy together.
- Use the magnetic letters and numbers to spell names and other important words. Notice the features of letters (e.g., balls, sticks, upper and lower case etc.).
- Sort magnetic letters by colour and shape and play with familiar sounds and objects from home.
- Help your child notice the print in your home and neighbourhood (e.g., Cheerios, McDonald's, stop sign)
- Explore **Chirp** magazine to find jokes, crafts to make, stories, science experiments, games, recipes and ideas for learning about feelings.
- Talk, read and sing with your child in your first language.

Math Play

Playing mathematical games with your child can build many early math skills such as knowledge about numbers, shapes and math language. These positive experiences with math can contribute to a lifelong love of learning.



Children are natural mathematicians!



Math around the home:

- Talk with your child about numbers, quantities, sizes, shapes, and patterns that are found in nature and around your neighbourhood.
- Count out foods and show your child how numbers change when you add and take away. (e.g., There are 3 carrot sticks and 2 cucumber slices. What happens when I eat 1 carrot stick?).
- Play games. Use the WTK die when you play the *Snakes and Vines* game in **Chirp** magazine.
- Cooking and baking are fun activities that involve math. Try some new recipes in our [WTK Cookbook!](#)
- Involve your child in meal preparations (e.g., measuring ingredients, counting cutlery, dividing portions into equal servings).
- Mark important dates on a calendar. (e.g., how many days until a birthday, holiday).
- Explore math concepts in books (e.g., under, around, behind).
- Look for numbers in stories, count objects and notice the page numbers.
- Use the WTK magnetic numbers to sort (by colour, shape, order), and to match with sets of objects (e.g., buttons, cutlery, toys).
- Sort the laundry, identify pairs, colours and owners. Then count “how many”.

Access our WTK Cookbook here:

<https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/family-cookbook>



Pocket Dice



The WTK Pocket Dice can be used in many ways to help us learn. Here are some games to play:

Roll and Count Roll the dice, count the dots. Create “how many”. (e.g., roll 2 and count 2 toy cars, roll 6 and count 6 six rocks). Gather empty egg cartons and place small objects in the empty egg spots. Once the egg carton is full, a “winner” is declared!

Insert Activity Cards into pockets and try these games:

Animal Actions

Using the animal cards, roll the dice and try to move like that animal (e.g., “waddle like a penguin”, “hop like a frog”). After your child has learned the movements, try moving like animals to the beat of your favourite music. Think of other animals and how they might move.

How are you Feeling?

The feelings cards can be used to talk about feelings and learn to express emotions. Roll the dice and act out the feeling (e.g., make a happy face, sad face). This time, roll the feeling and think about a time when... (e.g., I feel tired after we go for a long bike ride, I feel excited when it is my birthday). Think of other feelings that we experience.

Build A Story

Insert the story images. Roll the dice and encourage your child to tell a story about what they see. For example, “One sunny afternoon, a little girl crawled onto a log. She was surprised to discover a frog!” Family members could add to this story or roll again and try a new story. This game builds vocabulary, strengthens communication skills, and allows everyone to have fun using their imagination!

Toss a Shape

First, toss the dice and name the shapes (circle, square, oval). When a question mark is rolled, encourage your child to name and locate other shapes (e.g., hearts, stars, octagons). Next, roll the dice and look for shapes in your home or outdoors. (e.g., wheels are a circle, the roof is a triangle). Roll and draw the shape.



For more ideas and ways to play Dice Games at home, visit our blog at:

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

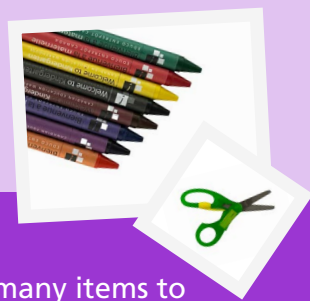


Creating Together

As you play and create together, children develop their small muscles, imaginations, learn to focus and explore concepts like colour, texture and design. Try creating with some of the WTK materials!

Playing with Crayons

Encourage your child to draw. Draw lines, shapes, faces, letters, numbers and more! Talk about the colours they used and some drawing details.



Using Scissors Together

Use scissors to cut a variety of items. You will find many items to cut in your recycling bin, (e.g., cardboard, bubble wrap, envelopes). Look at the weekly flyers or recycled magazines and have your child cut out pictures (e.g., foods, toys, numbers). Try cutting playdough!

Playdough

Playdough is a powerful learning tool. It offers many learning opportunities and is a fun and creative material!

Talk with your child about their playdough creations.

Try making playdough together.

Home-made playdough recipe:

2 1/2 cups flour, 1/2 cup salt, 2 tsp cream of tartar or alum, 2 cups boiling water, 3 tbsp oil, food colouring.

Combine the ingredients together, stir, and knead the dough together. Store it in a plastic container or zip- lock bag.

Create artworks and collections using pinecones, buttons, stones, leaves and other items in nature.

Talk about what you are creating and making.

**Celebrate your child's creations
and display them for everyone to enjoy.**



Playing Outdoors



Spending time outdoors can have a positive impact on both mental and physical health at any age. Help your child learn to enjoy playing outside!

Here are some fun things to do together:

- Take a walk and notice the changing seasons and what is happening in your neighbourhood.
- Gather natural materials like rocks, twigs, leaves, pinecones (they can be fun items to play with).
- Find a shady tree to read under.
- Run, skip, jump, and hop. Have fun together.

Singing and Moving Together

Music helps children learn about rhythm, rhyme and patterns. Dance, move and clap together!

Try making a band by using household objects to create sounds and tap out rhythms (e.g., spoons, cans, pots, sticks). Use finger play and actions while singing, (e.g., Itsy, Bitsy, Spider and Jump Up, Jump Down, from the WTK music).

Welcome to Kindergarten™ provides free music and lyrics for families that can be accessed through our website.



[Download music and lyrics here](https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/ten-fun-interactive-songs)

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



[Download Resource here](https://welcome-to-kindergarten.ca/Additional-WTK-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators/Music-Activities-CEW-WTK.pdf)

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Ask your child's teacher for the latest copy of
our newsletter - *Learning Through Play*.

More activity ideas can be found at our:

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



Welcome to Kindergarten™ helps prepare children for
a positive start to their school journey. WTK brings
children, families, schools, and communities together to
reinforce the importance of play-based learning.



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