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Welcome to Kindergarten

Delta School District
Inspired Learning

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In the Delta School District, we place students first. Our daily work is to foster the intellectual, physical, emotional, social and creative learning of all our students. Inspiring students to be lifelong learners that contibute to society is our ultimate goal.

Students entering our public school system will be guided by outstanding educators who are committed to enabling all students to be successful and who strive daily to provide all students with the opportunities and support they need to reach their full potential.

We hope that Kindergarten students and their parents find this document helpful in preparing for this important transition - starting school.

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

The Kindergarten teachers of Delta welcome you and your child to school. We look forward to working with you to make this first year of school very special.

Children enter Kindergarten eager to learn, with their own individual set of experiences, skills and knowledge. Our goal as teachers is to provide a stimulating, nurturing environment to support your child's continuous growth. We teach in ways that are designed to both grow each child's abilities and foster a love of learning.

In this handbook you will find our top suggestions for families as they look ahead to Kindergarten.

Where the ideas are familiar, we hope you will feel encouraged.

If the ideas are new we hope you will try them out in ways that will work for you and your child.

Have fun - and see you in September!

Delta Kindergarten Teachers

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Kindergarten experiences help children continue to develop the attitudes, knowledge, and abilities that are the foundation for all learning in school and in life. Children (and adults) learn best when they are physically, intellectually and emotionally engaged. Since play does all three it is a key ingredient in children's home and school experiences.

In particular it matters that children this age have times when they are free to choose what they are doing and what the end result is. Through this type of play, children are learning:

- to explore and investigate
- to test their ideas and try again
- to be creative and flexible
- to be in charge of themselves
- to pretend and be somebody else
- to plan and solve problems
- to improve through practice
- to build on what they already know
- to work with others

Play is a natural and necessary activity for children of all ages. Play is part of how kids make sense of new ideas and experiences. When children play, they learn more about themselves, other people, and the world around them.

Opportunities to play alone, with other children, and with adults are all important.

Providing daily unstructured time for your child to play is one of the most important ways you support their learning and development,

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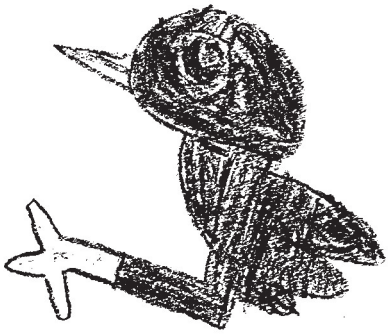
Parents are and continue to be their child's first and most important teacher.

Here are our top tips to support for learning before and during Kindergarten.

Intellectual development

- read aloud every day
- encourage your child to share their thinking
- ask and encourage questions
- talk a lot when you are together. (Use rich vocabulary in the language you are most comfortable with)
- plan new experiences
- make paper pencils, felts and crayons available and encourage your child to use them for their own purposes

Recognizing print and numbers in the environment is an early reading experience.



Help your child become more independent by teaching them how to:

- dress themselves
- go to the washroom and wash their hands
- clean-up
- feed themselves

Learning new skills builds confidence and school will feel more comfortable

There may still be times when an adult helps at home. The important thing is that the child is able to be independent when necessary, not how often they are independent.

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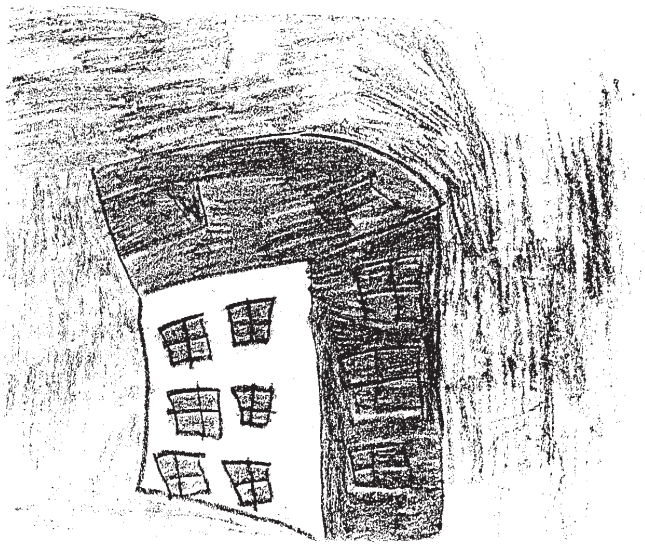
5 year olds need 12 hours of sleep!

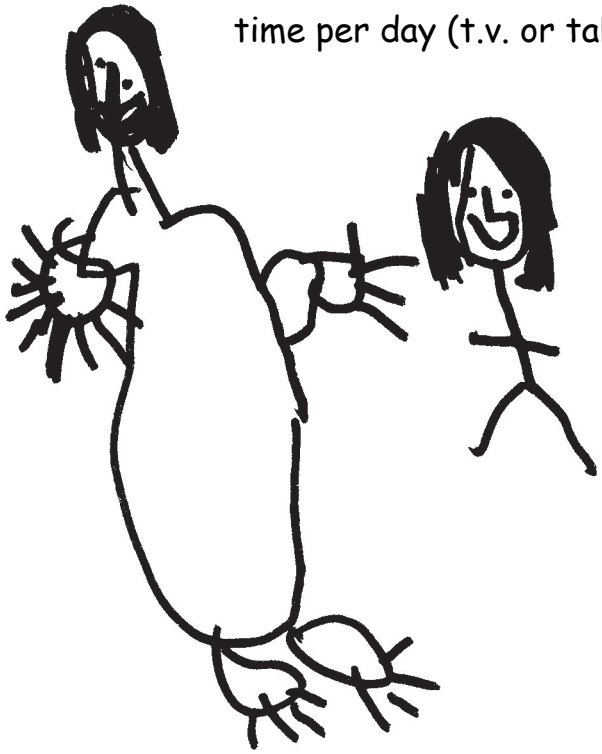
Physical health

- establish an early bed time
- book a check up by the doctor, dentist and optometrist
- provide nutritious meals and snacks most of the time
- make time for regular physical activity
- play with toys that build finger strength

Good health is necessary for learning.



Doctors recommend 5 year olds have less than 1 hour of screen time per day (t.v. or tablet)



Social interaction

- arrange play dates with children the same age
- nurture your relationship with your child
- name and talk about feelings
- play board games where you take turns

Listening, thinking and talking help your child to be successful in school.

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Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time for you and your child. Here are some suggestions to help make this transition successful.

Before Kindergarten starts

- visit the school yard and play on the playground
- visit a Kindergarten classroom
- buy a large backpack
- buy a pair of shoes that your child can do up by him/herself
- label your child's belongings with their name
- if your child shows and interest in printing, model formations as shown on the chart in this handbook
- toward the end of August, establish a daily routine which will allow enough time for your child to have a healthy breakfast, get dressed and get to school before the bell rings

During the first week

- be enthusiastic about going to school
- say goodbye in a caring but quick manner
- make sure your child knows who is picking him/her up
- make sure the pick up person arrives on time
- review all school notices and talk with your child about their day

Gradual Entry

For the first 2 weeks of school, your child will be involved in a Gradual Entry Phase-In. The gradual entry program helps children to make as easy a transition as possible from home to school.

During this period your child will have time to:

- learn to trust the adults at school
- become familiar with the many routines of school
- gain confidence to participate in the Kindergaten community
- adapt to the length and rhythm of the school day

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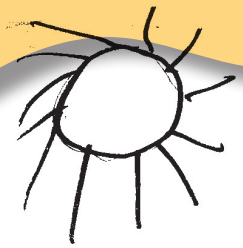

A Typical Kindergarten Day

Delta Kindergarten programs follow the BC curriculum which can be viewed at https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca. Below are activities that are often part of a Kindergarten day that provide opportunities for students to learn.

Opening Routine

This is a whole group meeting near the beginning of the Kindergarten day for transitioning from home to school. Opening may include activities such as:

- Planning for the day
- Sharing news
- Attendance procedure
- Songs and chants
- Birthday celebrations
- Literacy activity
- Vocabulary development
- Numeracy activity
- Oral language activity
- Word/sound play
- Exploring learning topics\interests

Activity Time/Centres

These are group or individual activities which are child directed and adult supported. New centres are added and others are removed or changed throughout the school year.

- Blocks
- Sand
- Story Listening
- Art
- Science
- Crafts
- Construction
- Math activities

- House centre
- Writing
- Alphabet centre
- Drama
- Puppets
- Books
- Story telling
- Painting

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Snack Time

The snack time provides an opportunity to teach and reinforce good health habits, language and mathematical concepts.

- Naming foods/vocabulary development
- Counting and classifying foods
- Describing colours, shapes and size
- Comparing and contrasting food
- Nutritional value
- Manners
- Taking turns
- Washing up and cleaning up
- Cultural awareness
- Respect for others' food choices
- Sensory awareness

Book Time

Children interact with books on their own or with a small group. All children can learn to enjoy books and to get meaning from them regardless of where they are at in their reading journey. Giving children access to a variety of books at home and school is the first step.

- Nursery rhymes and poems
- Fiction and non-fiction books
- Song books
- Books with rhyming text
- Books children want to re-read
- Books with repeating text

Physical Education Time

In the classroom, in the gym and outdoors, the children will experience activities designed to promote the development of large and small muscles, coordination, body awareness and familiarity with equipment.

- Games
- Ball skills
- Routines and following directions
- Sharing
- Taking turns
- Spatial relationships
- Music
- Dance
- Drama
- Safety

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Group Times

At group time the teacher and the class gather together to share ideas, information and literature often connected to what the class is learning about.

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- Stories and books
- Drama Activities
- Puppetry
- Sharing Student Work
- Shared Reading Activities
- Shared Writing Activities
- Alphabet, Letter and Sound Activities
- Songs and Chants
- Exploration and Research
- Games
- Student Sharing
- Numeracy Activities
- Discussions

Closing

At the end of the day the teacher and children comment on the day's activities and plan the next day. Children are encouraged to be responsible and independent by preparing to go home.

- Gather belongings
- Put on coats
- Collect work and notices
- Reflect on the day's learning
- Good-bye songs or chants
- Reminders of upcoming events

Please Note:

Kindergarten children are included in a variety of school-wide activities including library visits, cultural events and assemblies.

The Delta School District makes available services for children with special learning needs. Please discuss any support needs with your child's school.

FRENCH IMMERSION

The Delta School District also offers a French Immersion Program. This is an exciting opportunity for non-French speaking children to learn French in a way that is similar to how a first language is acquired. Your child could "live" French through rich and varied language activities.

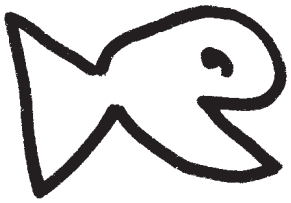
The French Immersion Kindergarten embraces the same education philosophies, and high standards as the regular Kindergarten Program. The main difference is that instruction is in French (100% of class time is the goal). French oral language and vocabulary are emphasized.

As in a regular Kindergarten class, a typical day in French Immersion Kindergarten may include:

- opening
- activity time/centres
- snack time
- book/story time
- physical education
- group time
- closing

The French Immersion Kindergarten classroom may have:

- "Bonjour" posted on the classroom door
- a bright, cheerful, and colourful ambiance
- shelves displaying French books
- shelves displaying language activities
- French posters and words posted on the walls
- a large French calendar center
- a variety of centers for active play (blocks, house, listening, construction etc.)



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The French Immersion Program is specifically designed for non-French speaking children. It is not expected that children or their parents have any knowledge of French prior to starting school.

You are your child's first teacher, and can provide your child with a good base in English and work habits while we provide the French at school.

As parents you can help your child get ready for French Immersion Kindergarten much as you would for regular Kindergarten. That is by encouraging:

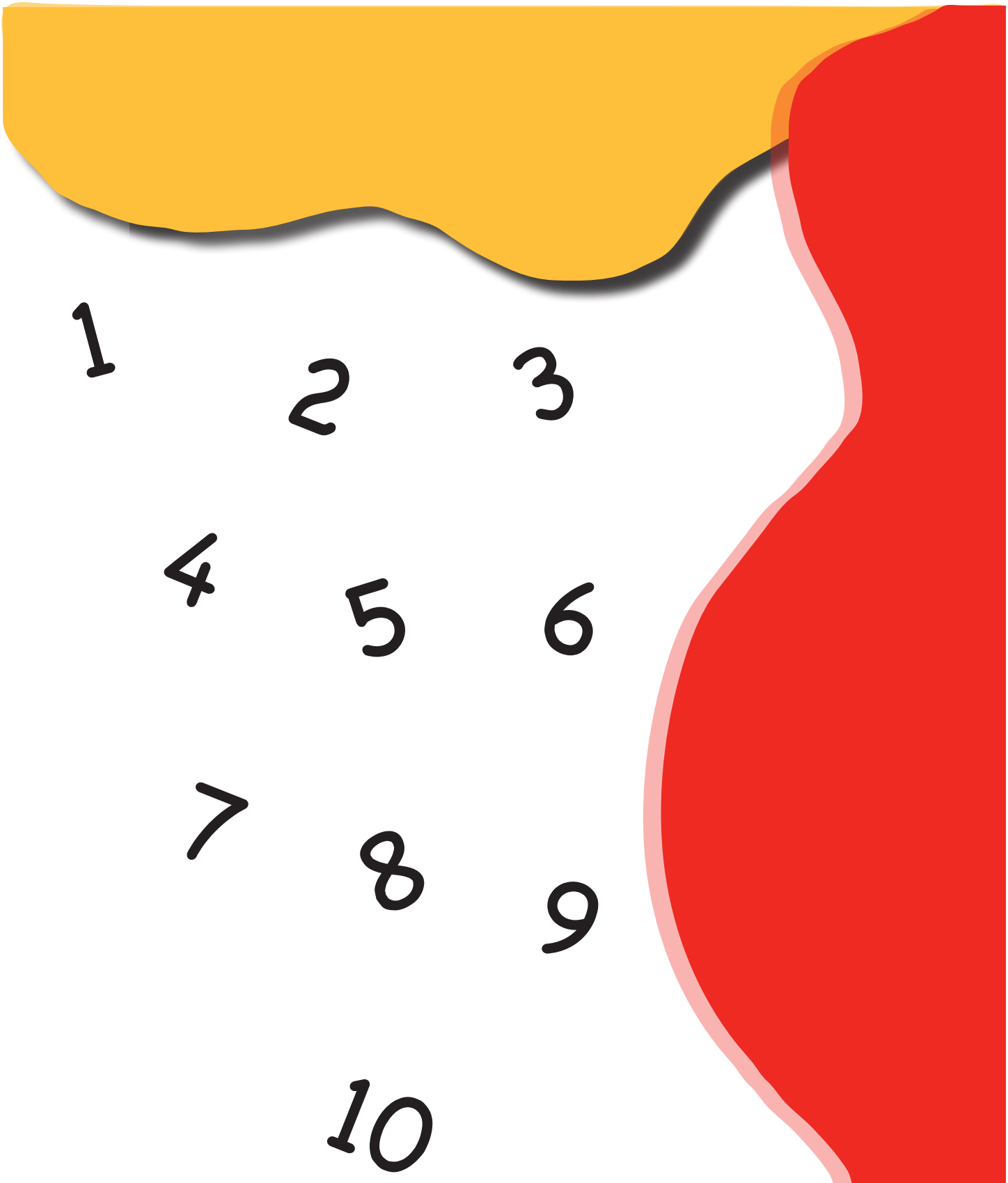
- language and number development
- responsibility and independence
- good health
- social interaction

It would also be beneficial to expose your child to a little French by:

- listening to French songs
- watching French cartoons or videos
- looking at French books

Please Note:
If you'd like to discuss the French Immersion Program further please feel free to contact your Principal, Kindergarten teacher, or our District French Coordinator. The Delta Chapter of "Canadian Parents for French" is also a good resource for French Immersion parents.

If your child is beginning to show an interest in making letters, you can help him/her by showing the most effective way to make the letters and numbers as shown on this page. Helping your child print her/his name, and anything else they show an interest in, will help them when they begin Kindergarten.



Thank you to the Kindergarten students from Heath Elementary for their artwork.

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