



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program

In October 2009, the provincial government announced details for the first stages of a Province-wide Early Learning Kindergarten Program for four and five year olds. Full implementation of the Early Learning Kindergarten Program will take five years with further details coming at a later date (for the final two years.) The Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board will have 10 classes at five schools for Year 1, which will start September 2010.

Q. What Catholic Schools within our Board will offer Early Learning Kindergarten classes in September 2010?

A. The following Catholic Schools will offer Early Learning Kindergarten classes in September 2010.

- ❖ Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay
- ❖ St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, Port Hope
- ❖ St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School, Bowmanville
- ❖ St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay
- ❖ St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Peterborough

Q. What is the Early Learning Kindergarten Program?

A. It is a full-day, everyday combined program for 4 and 5 year olds. There will be a class size of approximately 26 students with an educator team consisting of a Kindergarten Teacher and an Early Childhood Educator.

Q. How and when can I apply?

A. You may begin to apply in February at the school that your child would normally attend if that school is one of the five host schools. As all schools will not be starting the program in 2010, your local school may not have the program next year.

Q. How many available spaces will there be at my school?

A. Class size for the program is about 26 students in each class. The number of classes were determined based on enrollment trends for that school from previous years. Some schools will have multiple classes.

Q. How will the spaces be awarded? Will it be first come, first served?

A. Spaces will first be allocated to Catholic students who are in that school's catchment area or have siblings who already attend the school. Principals will be asked to create waiting lists for parents of students who may be interested, but would be out-of-boundary. Out of boundary applications will be awarded on a lottery basis, depending on remaining availability and/or space accommodation at the school, after the school year begins.

Q. When will this program start?

A. The first 10 classes will begin in September 2010 at the following schools:

- ❖ Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay
- ❖ St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, Port Hope
- ❖ St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School, Bowmanville
- ❖ St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay
- ❖ St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Peterborough

Q. Who can attend this program and what are the age requirements?

A. Any Catholic student who will be four-years-old or five-years-old by December 31, 2010, is eligible to enroll in the program for September 2010. The age is the same as for regular Kindergarten.

Q. What are the program times? What would the drop-off and pick-up times be for the program?

A. The regular program times would be the same as the rest of the school. (eg. 8:20 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. or 9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.) The extended day portion of the program, which parents pay a fee for, could start at 7:00 a.m. until the start of school, then from the end of the day until 6:00 p.m. This before and after school portion of the program will run if there is a need for it and will be staffed by Early Childhood Educators.

Q. Who will look after the children in the before and after program?

A. The Early Childhood Educators will look after the children in the before and after hours program.

Q. What will the cost to parents be?

A. There will be a cost to participate in the extended day portion of the program (before and after the normal school day). The exact cost for this part of the program has not been finalized at this time. The Ministry of Education expectation is that fees must be reasonable but allow Boards to recover costs. Subsidies will be available for the before and after school program for those families who qualify.

Q. If I am eligible for a fee subsidy now for child care, will I still receive that subsidy in the extended day program?

A. Yes, if you qualify for a subsidy you will still receive that support subject to applicable government eligibility criteria.

Q. What will the Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program look like?

A. Teachers and early childhood educators will work together to help children learn during the regular school day. Schools may also offer optional integrated programs before and after regular school hours for four and five year olds, led by early childhood educators. This new approach to early learning offers children an enriched learning environment designed to help them develop the social, emotional, academic, and physical skills that provide a good foundation for success in school and in life.

Q. Who will be teaching my children?

A. Catholic teachers and early childhood educators will work together to help young students learn and grow during the regular school day. These educators will complement each other's skill sets and create a learning environment able to adapt to the unique needs of each child. With two qualified professionals in the classroom for the full school day, more students will get one-on-one attention and opportunities to learn together in small groups.

Q. What will my child learn and do while in a Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program?

A. Full-day learning for four and five year olds will better prepare them for school and for life. This program will provide our youngest students with opportunities to socialize with their peers and develop the academic and social skills necessary for school, including laying the foundation for each child's reading, writing, and math skills.

Q. Why full-day, everyday learning?

A. Many four and five year olds already spend long days in a mix of child care and Kindergarten programs. Full-day early learning will create a seamless and integrated day for children. Providing children with a stronger start on their Catholic learning will improve their reading, writing, and math skills; provide a smoother transition to Grade 1; and increase their future achievement in school.

Q. Will transportation be provided for the before and after school program?

A. No. Transportation for students who attend the before and after school program will be the responsibility of the parent.

Q. Where can I obtain more Information on the Early Learning Kindergarten Program?

A. You can obtain more information on the Board's website www.pvnccdsb.on.ca or the Ministry of Education website www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ or call your local school or the Catholic Education Centre at (705) 748-4861, Ext. 171 or 245.

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2010



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