

Children with Social, Emotional, or Behavioural Needs

Help Your Child Have a Happy Start in School



Your child is going to kindergarten.
A good start can help your child do well in school.

First: Register your child at your neighbourhood school.

Then: Please tell the school about your child.

Why tell the school about your child?

A child's feelings and behaviour can make learning hard. When a school knows about a child, they can help the child learn.

You know your child best. Your school wants to work as a team with you. Your school wants to know about your child so the teacher and classroom will be ready to help your child learn.

What to tell the school about your child

Your school wants to know:

- what your child likes
- what your child can do
- what is hard for your child
- what your child needs
- who works with your child now

You decide what you will tell the school about your child.

How to tell the school about your child

There are different ways to tell the school about your child:

- Someone who works with your child now can help you.
For example, someone from Canadian Mental Health Association, KidsAbility, Wee Talk, or your child care program
- You can call or visit your school and talk to someone yourself.
- You can write a note about your child and give it to your school.

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Who needs to know about your child?

People who will help your child at school need to know about your child.

People who may need to know about your child are:

- the Principal
- your child's Teacher
- your child's Early Childhood Educator,
- other people who will work with your child in school

How will the school help your child?

You and your school can plan together how to help your child.

Here are some ways a school might help children:

- invite a child to visit the Teacher, Early Childhood Educator, and classroom before school starts
- make a social story about going to school for a parent and child to look at together
- make a quiet place in the classroom where children can rest and calm down
- make a picture schedule to help a child know what will happen next
- prepare a child for changes that will happen soon
- give a child smaller steps or more time to do something
- teach a child safe choices
- teach a child how to take turns and get along with other children
- help a child talk about his or her feelings

Do you have questions? Do you know how to start?

Call or visit the principal at your school. – or – Talk to someone who works with your child now.

Your school welcomes you and your child to kindergarten.