



Full-Day Kindergarten Program

Information Booklet

School office number: 519-725-4221

Welcome to the Millen Woods Family!

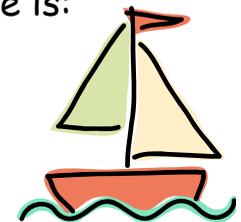
Your child is standing on the threshold of one of the greatest adventures of life. Kindergarten is an important milestone in the life of a child. It is an exciting time for children; a whole new world opens up for them each day, bringing new experiences and developing skills as each child learns to live, work, and interact with others.

This booklet is designed to provide information, to answer many of your questions, and to welcome you to our school family.

Smooth Sailing in Kindergarten at Millen Woods

Here at Millen Woods we are Mariners, and every year we set sail on a voyage of learning! Our school theme is:

S.A.I.L.



When we **SAIL** we are **Showing** respect, **Always** positive, **Including** everyone, **Loving** to Learn.

What is Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten?

Core Component

- Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten
- Core Program takes place from **9:00 am-3:20 pm**
- FDK Program document is used to guide the Core Program (to see an electronic version of the program, Google The Full-Day Early Learning—Kindergarten Program)
- Co-delivered by a Kindergarten Teacher and an Early Childhood Educator (ECE)

Blended Classrooms

- JK and SK children attend school together, in the same classroom
- This blending supports children during the two year program along the continuum of learning



Extended Day Component

- Extended Day takes place before and after school and is an optional, fee-based Program
- Before and after school programs are provided by JHCCC—Millen Woods Child Care Centre
- Staffed with RECEs
- Operates all school days/PD Days/March Break
- If interested in the afterschool program, please call 519-888-9000

Why Full-Day Kindergarten?

- Early childhood development sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour and health
- Partnerships with families and communities strengthen the ability of early childhood settings to meet the needs of young children
- Planned curriculum delivered in a play-based environment serves to capitalize on children's natural curiosity
- Supports brain growth and the development of self-regulation

Key Areas of Learning in Kindergarten

- Personal and Social Development
- Language
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Health and Physical Activity
- The Arts

Typical Experiences in Kindergarten

- Small, guided groups
- Learning Centres
- Physical Activity and Outdoor Experiences
- Large Group times
- School-wide activities
- Nutrition breaks
- Library visits



Learning to Read at school

- Students participate in whole group read-aloud and shared reading experiences
- They are taught to read in structured small group sessions using a wide variety of little books and other reading materials.
- The emphasis is on making meaning, using strategies and connections to make sense of what is read.

How can I help my child learn language?

- Show your child photos of people and places and ask questions about the pictures.
- Read to your child. Go to the library. Bring home books and magazines. Read familiar stories many times. Ask questions about stories.
- Show printed words and letters. Tell the sounds the letters make.
- Help your child to read and print his or her name.
- Sing songs and teach rhymes.



What about the other areas of learning?

All areas of learning are important: mathematics, music, visual arts, dramatic play, developing a love of science and nature as we explore Millen Woods outside our door, and physical education and health.

Underpinning all areas of learning is the development of emotional and social wellbeing and self-regulation. The Ontario curriculum highlights this at the beginning of the Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program document.

"The abilities of children to regulate their own emotions, behaviours, and attention increase over time with maturation, experience and responsive relationships. Supporting self-regulation is a central focus of early development because self-regulation skills lead to physical, social, emotional, behavioural, and cognitive competence." (ELECT, p. 8)

Getting to school

Students who walk

- The first day of school, the teachers will meet you and your child outside the Kindergarten classroom doors. Please remain with your child until the bell rings (at 9:00 am)
- Extended day students will play in the childcare yard and then be escorted to the kindergarten teachers when the bell rings
- At the end of the school day please meet your child at the same spot at 3:20 pm.
- At the end of the day extended day students will be met outdoors in the kindergarten area by the child care staff
- For safety reasons parents and students are not permitted to park or walk through the parking lot

Students who take the bus

- On the first day of school, your child will receive a "bus tag" with your child's name, address and teacher
- when your child arrives at school, staff will greet him or her
- at the end of the day, staff will escort your child to the bus
- the driver will not drop your child off unless there is an adult at the drop-off location to greet him or her; the bus will return your child to the school and you will need to arrange to pick up your child ASAP
- listen to the radio for bus cancellations when winter arrives!

What does my child need for school?

Backpack --Big enough to hold large library books and artwork

Indoor running shoes—Velcro slip-on running shoes are best until they can tie shoe laces independently

Lunch bag—use reusable, easy-to-open, labeled containers (your child can practise opening them at home). We do "Boomerang" lunches at Millen Woods (lunch leftovers and recyclable containers return home)

Just in Case Clothes—Accidents can happen. Please provide pants, shirt, socks, and underwear in a labeled Ziploc bag

Dress for the weather—We spend lots of time outside each day. Please help your child to be warm and dry for outside play and exploration.

Parents as Partners

We welcome your participation.

- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Offer to be a "guest speaker" to share expertise, hobbies or family traditions
- Stay informed
- Participate in school events such as assemblies and Scientists in Schools
- Attend a Parent Council Meeting
- Contact your child's teacher
- Speak positively about school



Getting Ready for School

- Talk about school, and what it might be like
- Read books to your child about school
- Offer experiences where your child plays and works with other children and adults
- Teach how to do up zippers, take coats on and off, put on shoes and boots, write his or her name, go to the bathroom independently

Building independence

Try these phrases to encourage independence.

- "You try it." "Give it a go."
- "How will you solve that problem?"
- "What do you think the next step should be?"
- "What are your ideas about that?"
- "Show me what you can do."

What's next?

Parents will receive an information package in the mail in July. This will provide the following information:

- Your child's teacher and Early Childhood Educator
- Staggered Entry Information and your child's first day of school

We look forward to journeying with you and your little one. There are many adventures ahead.

Anchors aweigh!