



Supporting First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students

Information for Families

Is your child going from home or childcare to Kindergarten?

Boozhoo, Aaniin, Waché, Alo' and Greetings

Congratulations and welcome to a very special and exciting time in your child's educational journey. The transition from home or childcare to an elementary school is one of the most significant educational changes a family will experience in their children's education. Young learners are taking a huge first step as they continue in their lifelong learning. They will experience new curriculum, new situations, new learning environments, new opportunities and they will meet many new people.

These are the foundational years that will greatly impact young learners. In these years, children are developing their personality, academic skills, and life values. Family members are the first and most influential role models who children look to in all things. How a child's family members view school, how they live, what their home environment is like and the types of supports family members provide is a strong determining factor for success in a child's future, and life.

Adapted from: Ontario Native Education Counselling Association (ONECA)





Suggestions for supporting your child going from home or childcare to Kindergarten:

- Model a love of lifelong learning.
- Bring your child to the library or EarlyON Centre.
- Watch for a warm welcome from your school community as you get ready for Kindergarten. Your family will be invited to special events, and you'll receive a goody bag filled with books and fun activities to share with your child.
- Spend time as a family with children in land-based activities such as ice fishing or going for walks in the bush.
- Read to your child.
- Access stories online such as read-a-louds and Ojibwemowin-videos on YouTube.
- Count things that you see every day with your children such as trees, cars, etc.
- Establish routines in the home that are clear and consistent.
- Engage your child in events that involve cultural teachings and lifeways from other role models including cultural gatherings and powwow celebrations.
- Consider speaking to an education support worker from your First Nation or local organization such as the Indigenous Friendship Centre or Métis Nation of Ontario for additional supports for schools and extra-curricular activities.