

September 18, 2006

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing the N'sheemaehn Kindergarten program. This letter will give you key information regarding our program.

Each year, the Kindergarten program has been evaluated and positive changes have been made to improve it. These changes provide a strong program for your child.

You are the most important person in your child's life. Children love to share experiences with their parents. They thrive on parents' pride and approval. A partnership with you is essential in giving your child the skills they need to meet the challenges in life. I am inviting you to team with me so that your child's Kindergarten experience will be a positive one.

The Kindergarten group will be given opportunities to develop their skills for grade one. Through small, and large-group activities that follow the Ontario Curriculum, they will have the opportunity to develop fundamental skills in reading, writing, math, science and the arts. They will also learn to develop a positive attitude towards school and learning. Our goal is to instill in them a passion and desire for life-long learning.

Parents in Kindergarten receive two comprehensive report cards detailing development in each curriculum area. The report card gives a full and detailed picture of your child and an understanding of how they will meet the challenges in grade one. In addition, parent/teacher meetings are held twice a year to discuss your child's development and answer questions or concerns. Additional meetings can be arranged as needed.

In Kindergarten, having support from home is crucial in ensuring children meet their fullest potential and learn to develop a positive attitude towards school and learning. As such we will be providing "homework" on a weekly basis. The goals of "homework" are to: provide opportunities for children to share their learning with parents, develop pride and respect in their learning, and build their skills through positive experience with parents. The "homework" will include activities such as reading and writing in a phonics book, playing games, or engaging in conversation.

In order to give parents the opportunity to fully understand how the program is run on a daily basis, and understand the skills your child develops in Kindergarten, we will be hosting a Kindergarten Orientation. During the Orientation we will discuss school experiences, home experiences, the phonics program, curriculum, daily schedule, child development, and the opportunity to answer your questions. **The orientation is mandatory for all parents . It will be on September 28th at 6:00pm. Chid care and dinner will be provided for your child(ren).**

At the orientation the parents will be asked to sign a Kindergarten contract. The Kindergarten teacher will also sign the contract. The contract will detail the expectations of parents and teacher in the Kindergarten program. Parents are expected to be a full partner in their child's learning, encourage a positive learning attitude through completing "homework", ensure regular and punctual attendance and that their child is mentally and physically ready for learning (proper sleep and breakfast). The teacher's expectations include being a full partner with parents, respecting and supporting each child as an individual, planning learning experiences accordingly, and providing a safe and supportive learning environment.

Sincerely,

Alien and Cathy