

Welcome to Kindergarten!



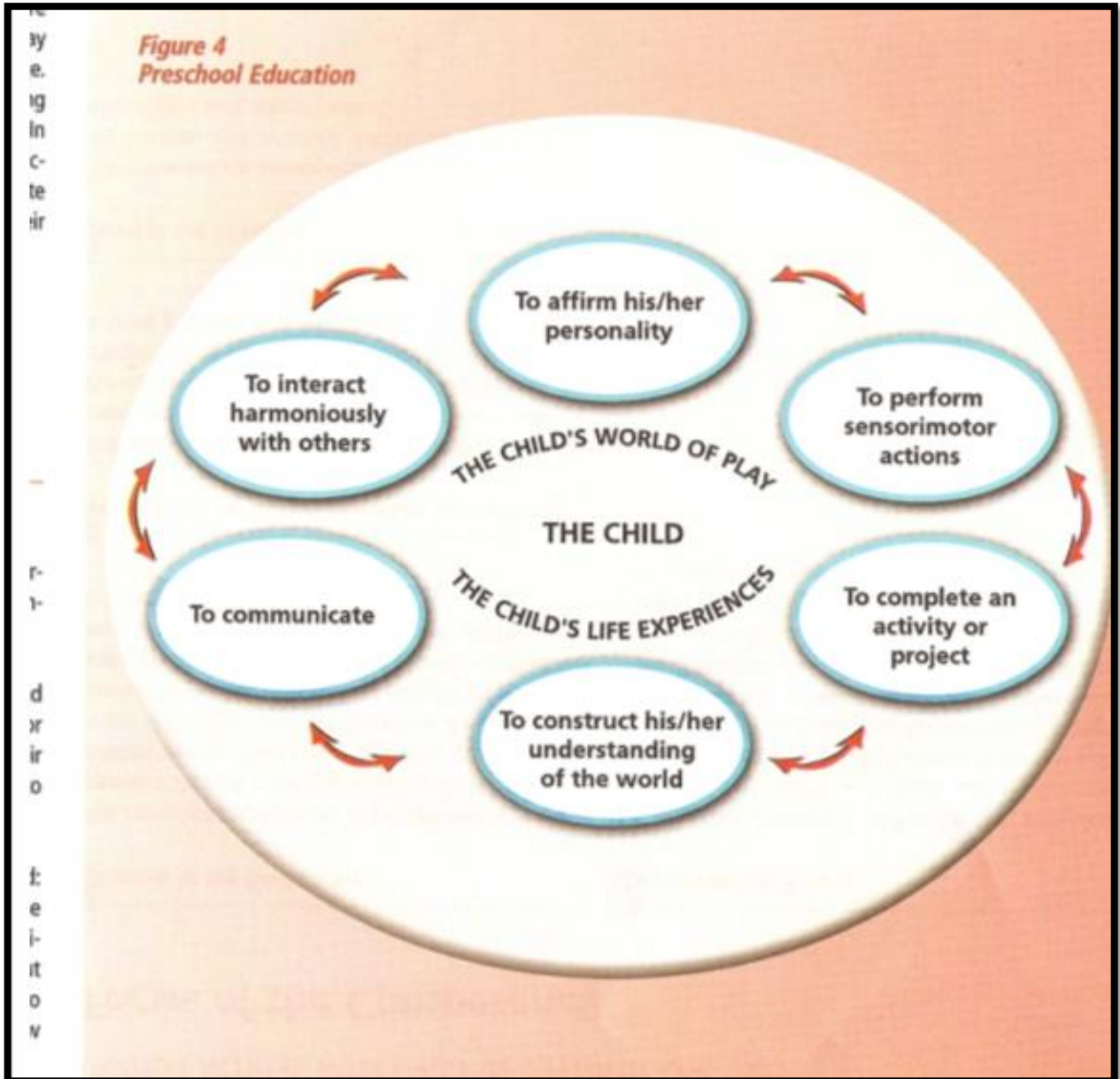
Curriculum Package 2018-19

Prepared by

Mme Aubrey & Ms. Natalie

The Kindergarten Curriculum

Quebec Education Program



Lunches and snacks

- Remember the classroom is a peanut/nut free environment.
- We encourage snacks that are healthy and nutritious.
- If you are sending cupcakes for your child's birthday, make sure that they are peanut/nut free.

A reminder that....

- Indoor shoes must be gym shoes
- No toys are allowed in the classroom unless requested by the teacher.
- A complete set of extra clothes is needed and please remember to replace them if they have been used.

It is important to us that...

- Your child arrives on time.
- Your child brings their agenda every day.
- You promptly return forms, notes and permission forms.
- You speak to your child's teacher right away if your child is anxious, stressed, unhappy or overwhelmed.
- Any and all items coming to school such as containers or clothing need to be labelled.

Volunteers:

- Please let us know if you wish to volunteer in the class or do things at home for the class. If you have any special activities you would like to share with the children, please contact us.

Welcome to Kindergarten!

We have had a great start to the year, and I am delighted to be teaching the Kindergarten program. By using planned experiences that are closely linked to a young child's interests, the Kindergarten year provides a framework for setting up the school curriculum. The program is play-based and focuses on the child as a developing individual. Through a variety of activities, each child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive needs are fostered in a safe and supportive learning environment. In Kindergarten, the development of a positive self-image is nurtured so that the children feel good about themselves and their ability to learn. Basic skills needed for life-long learning will be introduced this year, including how to attend, focus on and complete a task, follow directions, ask questions, communicate, reflect and evaluate, cooperate, take initiative and make choices.

Through themes, we aim to broaden the child's existing knowledge of their world. We will be exploring these themes in both English and French to provide continuity and aid in the transfer of learning.

The Kindergarten program promotes learning in a wide spectrum of areas such as personal and social skills, language, the arts, mathematics, science and technology, and physical education. The students' daily behaviours are observed in order to determine and assess their individual growth and achievement. Completed work will be sent home periodically.

Language Arts

In Kindergarten, The English Language Arts program's main goal is to develop communication skills-listening and oral language, a love of reading and a desire and ability to use written communication. Circle time involves participating in such activities as morning message, shared reading, group writing, singing, learning games, stories and discussions. Language growth is stimulated through working together at learning centers, theme and story writing, drama, puppets and music. The children are taught the alphabet and sounds through letter activities and games. Print concepts are learned through shared reading and writing experiences, home reading (later in the year) and guided reading groups. As the year progresses, the children are encouraged to experiment with writing. They will copy words and short sentences in their environment and be encouraged to start inventive spelling when they are ready. Fine motor development and eye-hand coordination, essential for reading and writing, are strengthened by painting, modeling materials, manipulative materials, and outdoor play. Listening skills are developed through stories, sharing time, songs and listening games.

Math

Mathematics is taught using a hands-on approach. Each new concept is explored using a variety of concrete materials. Activities are designed to promote questioning, to stimulate thinking, and to provide opportunities for working together to explore mathematical ideas. Problem solving is an integral part of all concepts covered and is a means of connecting math experiences to the real world. Areas of study in Kindergarten math include: sorting and classification, graphing,

counting and number concepts, measurement, geometry, addition and subtraction stories, and patterns. Our daily calendar (en français) integrates counting, patterns, graphing, months of the year and days of the week into the curriculum as well.

French Second Language

French as a second Language, at the Kindergarten and primary level, emphasizes the oral aspect of the language (listening and speaking). French is learned through stories, songs, chants, art and games. It is a child-centered program which encourages the student to communicate in French in a natural and enjoyable setting. We will begin the AIM program "Histoires en Action", this program will be incorporated during the school year.

Exploration of the program

Your child began a new French program, called *Histoires en action! pour les tout petits*. This program has proven to be a revolutionary new approach to second language instruction. It is based upon the use of stories and music for the teaching of French. Specifically designed stories that are written in the form of plays become the focus for a range of motivating language activities that help students develop confidence and competence in the language as they progress through each story unit. For young students, the use of stories is a very important way to contextualize vocabulary. It allows language development to be supported and nurtured within the familiar, predictable context of a story that is the focus for the unit's work. Music is integrated with the story, and in each unit of this program.

There are a few songs, chants and raps that help students who learn well through rhythmical activities. They also become aware of rhyming words in the language. The vocabulary that is taught in this method has been carefully selected as it is essential vocabulary for students during the initial stages of language learning.

Another component of this program is the *Gesture Approach*, a technique that uses hand signs to help students learn and remember this important vocabulary found in the plays, songs, and other activities. Each word is associated with a gesture, so that the language is represented visually and kinaesthetically for the benefit of those students who learn best this way.

There is an equal, strong emphasis on the development of all four language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) through this program; however, for young students, the written word will be gradually introduced and the initial focus will be on oral language acquisition with plenty of pleasant repetition. Those students who can already read in English will have the opportunity to be challenged with written language activities in French that meet their needs. Activities are varied, so that students have the opportunity to work individually, in partners, in small groups and as a whole class.

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- Learn the words in this unit;
- Use French spontaneously, both with the teacher and with peers;
- Pronounce words correctly;
- Answer questions based on story;
- Listen well;
- Cooperate with peers while working with a partner;

- Participate with enthusiasm;
- Complete work on time;
- Stay focused and productive in class.

I am looking forward to working with your child. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions regarding this outline or your child's progress. Please encourage your child to share with you what and how he/she is learning in French.

Physical Education Program

The Kindergarten students will be having fun learning a variety of games, skills and fitness activities to further develop their body awareness, coordination and spatial orientation as well as a develop cooperative skills and sportsmanship. Furthermore, we will promote a healthy and active lifestyle.