

MY CHILD'S LEARNING: A PARENT RESOURCE CUSTOMIZED INFO SHEET

Early Literacy

Language is the doorway to being able to share ideas and experiences, relate to others and make sense of the world. Your child will ask questions, give their thoughts on stories they hear and share their own exciting stories and experiences. They will read and print their name, group objects and play with words. As they discover how language works, the world opens up for them! For more about Early Literacy, refer to the [Kindergarten Program Statement](#).

Mathematics

Kindergarten students

- count to 10 forwards and backwards
- show, describe and compare quantities of things up to 10
- sort objects based on a single [attribute](#)
- recognize groups of 1–5 objects arranged in a familiar way
- play, read and use storytelling to explore and talk about how to solve problems
- connect numbers to everyday life
- recognize and create patterns, using objects, sounds and actions

For more about Kindergarten Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

Citizenship and Identity

Kindergarten children explore who they are and how they fit into the world. Your child will become aware of their own uniqueness—their gifts, talents and interests—and discover the connections they have with others. They will develop a strong sense of identity, self-esteem and belonging as they share their gifts with others, express interest in others and interact sensitively and responsibly. For more about Citizenship and Identity, refer to the [Kindergarten Program Statement](#).

Environment and Community

Awareness

Your child will begin to make sense of the environment and understand how they fit into and shape their world. They will

see similarities and differences between things and discover how one action can cause another. Using their senses, they will identify shapes, symbols and sounds; recognize animals; and see seasonal changes. Building structures with various materials, and using technology, they will impact the environment and see the results. For more about Environment and Community Awareness, refer to the [Kindergarten Program Statement](#).

Personal and Social Responsibility

As your child makes friends, shares materials and attention, and takes turns, they will develop social skills they need for life. Kindergarten helps children see themselves as capable of learning, trying new things and taking risks. Rules and routines are learned and children become more independent, beginning to take responsibility for what they do at school. They develop ways to express feelings positively and to show respect and caring for others. Still curious? Refer to the [Kindergarten Program Statement](#) for more about Personal and Social Responsibility.

Physical Skills and Well-Being

Healthy lifestyles begin in Kindergarten. Through movement, games and activities that use a variety of equipment, children develop coordination, balance and stability, as well as fine motor skills. They begin to connect the choices they make—what they eat, whether they will follow safety rules—with their health and well-being, and begin to understand that they are responsible for their bodies. For more about Physical Skills and Well-being, refer to the [Kindergarten Program Statement](#).

Creative Expression

Ideas and feelings are shared in many ways. Kindergarten children explore drama, art, music and dance to express themselves and to shape the world with their vibrant imaginations. By listening to, creating and moving to music; looking at, creating and responding to visual art; and pretending to be someone else in a dramatic play, your child will become more self-aware and self-confident and begin to appreciate the connections that the fine arts create between individuals and the world. For more about Creative Expression, refer to the [Kindergarten Program Statement](#).

Religious Education in Separate Schools

General Information about Religious Education

Religious education crosses all seven of the learning areas described in the [Kindergarten Program Statement](#). *In God's Image*, the Kindergarten religion program, consists of 8 modules containing 33 themes that can be sequenced by the teacher to best respond to the particular needs and interests of each class.

The *Me* module celebrates the child through such topics as feelings, senses, capabilities, needs and family. The *Earth Times* module celebrates the wonder of Earth through activities related to the seasons. The *Community* module celebrates caring through discussion, making friends and helping. The *Changes* module invites children to experience support and comfort at such times as the birth of a sibling or moving to a new house. The *Plants* and *Animals* modules celebrate creation through activities with trees, flowers, bugs, pets and other animals. The *Special Days* module suggests activities for celebrating such events as birthdays, Mother's Day and Father's Day. The *Church Times* module is a sequential set of lessons that invite children to celebrate the Christian story as it unfolds through Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. *In God's Image* uses the existing special moments and experiences of young children and affirms their religious importance. Throughout the day, your child will be encouraged to see traces of God in all of their experiences.

Spiritual Development

In a Catholic school, the spiritual development of children is nourished, and children will likely meet the priest, pastoral assistants and other members of the parish. It is recognized that young children are each at a unique place in their spiritual development.

A young child's way of being "religious" is to play, to be creative, to be curious and to express wonderment. Through these natural childhood activities, children explore traces of God, the "marks" of God present all around them as they grow, learn and experience life. The essence of children's spirituality is their response to life.

In the uninhibited excitement that Kindergarten children feel toward nature, they are drawn toward a loving Creator. Their experiences of God are sensed through touching, smelling, tasting, seeing and hearing, rather than through intellectual explanations.

Young children come to know Jesus through their experiences of seeing people valued and celebrated. They recognize themselves first, and then their families, friends and classmates as made in God's image. Later, they are able to experience Jesus as the perfect image and likeness of God.

In a Catholic school, the spiritual development of a child in Kindergarten occurs through activities that are affective, to support positive feelings toward themselves and others, and sensory, to relate directly to the good things that God has created.

The Kindergarten classroom will have a prayer centre where the Bible has a special place of honour. A cross, candles and a special cloth may also be present. The teacher will use this centre as a gathering area to commence religious activities and will allow the children to explore the Bible and other elements of the centre freely. In addition, the teacher may adjust the art, games and other centres in the classroom to reflect the current emphasis of the religion program.