

COLLECTIVELY INVESTING IN 3–5-YEAR-OLDS

to promote their educational success

KEY MOMENT

2

DURING ENROLLMENT IN KINDERGARTEN

CREATING A POSITIVE FIRST CONTACT

A smooth first transition from early childhood to kindergarten relies both on partnerships among the various sectors involved with children and their families and on addressing the needs of all. By investing in this issue collectively, we help make going to school fun and increase parental engagement—strong foundations for educational success! Five key moments over a 16-month period offer numerous opportunities to work together.

CHILDREN

PARENTS

FAMILIES

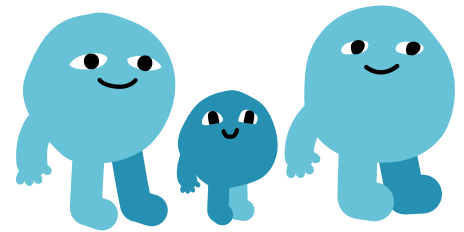
CHILDCARE CENTRES

SCHOOLS

LIBRARIES

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL, HEALTH, AND MUNICIPAL NETWORKS

January and February... The time has finally come for enrollment in kindergarten! Both parents and children seesaw between excitement and apprehension. For schools, the saying you never get a second chance to make a first impression applies. Beyond purely administrative questions, numerous other issues are at play, chief among them the need to instill a bond of trust between the child, their parents, and the school from the outset.



Creating a positive first contact is...

REACHING EVERYONE

- Ensuring that **all information related to enrollment** is online and that links are functional.
- Mobilizing **all possible sources of information** – schools, childcare, community, healthcare, municipal – to share enrollment details.
- Paying close attention to **special characteristics of the community** so that specific approaches can be implemented if needed.

CREATING A BOND OF TRUST FROM THE OUTSET

- Ensuring that child, mother, and father feel **welcome “at the school,”** regardless of whether enrollment takes place in person, by telephone, via email, or online.
- Ensuring that the first contact with the school environment is an opportunity for both parents and children to voice questions and concerns, and that these **concerns** are **received and heard** when they are expressed.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

- Providing **personalized and reassuring support** by identifying a contact person in each organization who can receive questions about the enrollment process and direct them to the appropriate source of information.
- Offering **multiple enrollment methods** (in person, online, via email, by mail) helps reach everyone and meets different needs.
- Providing **services adapted** to the community (e.g., multilingual documentation) makes so many things simpler...

INVOLVING THE SCHOOL'S STAFF

- Enrollment in kindergarten is not just an administrative task: **it concerns the entire school's staff.**
- **Providing a warm welcome** should guide not only those assigned to enrollment, but the entire school team.

· THE 5 KEY MOMENTS OF A SMOOTH FIRST TRANSITION TO SCHOOL ·



Creating a positive first contact

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

DURING ENROLLMENT IN KINDERGARTEN

Working together

AUGUST TO DECEMBER

PRIOR TO ENROLLING IN KINDERGARTEN

Instilling an enthusiasm for school

MARCH TO JUNE

AFTER ENROLLMENT IN KINDERGARTEN

Valuing skillsets

JULY TO SEPTEMBER

AROUND THE START OF KINDERGARTEN

Settling in

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

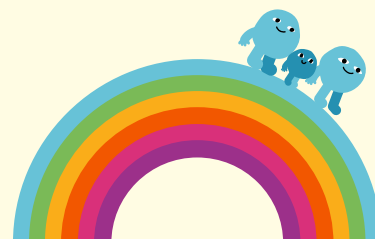
AFTER THE START OF KINDERGARTEN

A smooth transition from early childhood to kindergarten:



- + For both children and parents, a positive first contact engenders a **favourable attitude toward the school** and instills feelings of competency and belonging.
- + Building a bond of trust between children and parents and the school from the outset creates an **environment conducive to adaptation**.

- + A well-planned enrollment process improves administrative **flow** in the heat of the action.



Suggestion box



Now, more than ever, keep information about enrollment up to date in real time (online, with partners, etc.).

Create a list of partners who can assist with the enrollment process and make it available to parents. Certain organizations can provide interpreters, help with filling out forms, computer stations for online enrollment, and so on.

Offer workshops for parents on the enrollment process in various formats (in-person, online, view on demand, evening, morning, etc.) that encourage as many people as possible to attend.

Include places frequented by families (leisure centres, libraries, shops, etc.) among the locations where information is disseminated, either through posters, newsletters, or online publications.

Plan a welcome gesture for any children who come along for enrollment: a colourful guard of honour made with balloons, a fun enrollment certificate, a first “school pencil,” etc.

Hint: The only prerequisite for kindergarten is to be 4 or 5 years old.

Any requirement or request that implies a notion of the child’s expected performance puts more pressure on the transition.

Etc.!

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COLOURFUL SUMMARY POSTER

The 5 information sheets in the *Collectively investing in 3–5-year-olds to foster educational success* are based on the five key moments in a smooth first transition to school. The sheets are distributed over the course of 16 months and provide information specific to each key moment at the appropriate time of year. They are produced by Réseau réussite Montréal–RRM, which works to disseminate effective concepts, based on a consensus of Montréal stakeholders, related to the transition from early childhood to kindergarten.