

Programming for Preschoolers & Their Parents | March to April 2021

204.669.4043 • kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca • Supported by Child and Youth Services, Department of Families



Kinder Links @ Home is a FREE program for families with young children living in the River East Transcona community. *Kinder Links @ Home* features exciting ways to enjoy literacy and numeracy activities from the comfort and safety of your home.

Get creative, playful, and passionate about early learning with our FREE parent-child programs! With so many ways to stay connected, your family is sure to enjoy these new *Kinder Links* experiences. Simply pick the option that works best for your family.

VIRTUAL PARENT-CHILD PROGRAMMING

To ensure the best virtual experience, we encourage parents and children to participate in these program activities together. You'll enjoy this quality time learning, laughing, and making memories as a family.

Get comfortable, cuddle up, and enjoy interesting literacy and numeracy activities with your *Kinder Links* facilitators.

VIRTUAL Baby Bumblebees

Best enjoyed by parents with babies birth to age 1

Introduce your baby to the joy of songs, rhymes, and finger plays! Sing along to your favourites while learning new lap songs, diapering songs, and lullabies that are sure to delight and stimulate your little one. Each session, parents will enjoy time connecting VIRTUALLY with other new parents.

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28

12:30–1:15 p.m.

Cancelled Mar. 31

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Cancelled April 1

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30

12:30–1:15 p.m.

Cancelled April 2

VIRTUAL Gift of Words

Best enjoyed by children 1 to 3

Colourful puppets and felt board activities are a highlight at the *Gift of Words!* Your family is sure to enjoy a selection of active songs, finger plays, and a few great books.

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28

10:30–11 a.m.

Cancelled Mar. 31

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Cancelled April 2

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VIRTUAL Hey Diddle Diddle

Best enjoyed by children 1 to 5

Traditional nursery rhymes and stories come alive at *Hey Diddle Diddle!* Get ready for rhyme favourites including the Itsy Bitsy Spider, Humpty Dumpty, Mary Had a Little Lamb, and Jack and Jill, to name just a few! A variety of colourful puppet friends will join us as we play educational games and activities. Each class ends with a special nursery-rhyme-inspired craft idea to try at home.

Mondays, Mar. 15–April 26
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 31

VIRTUAL Night Owls

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5

Have a hoot playing games, singing songs, and listening to bedtime stories and lullabies at *Night Owls* this winter. Children will love visiting with our friend/puppet, Snowy the Owl, who flies in during our lively rhyme circle.

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
6:15–6:45 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

VIRTUAL Once Upon a Rhyme

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5

Participants are sure to have fun singing traditional nursery rhymes. Together, we will clap, dance, march, and hop along to high energy favourite songs. Each class features an interactive story experience, including story circles, story vines, and more!

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled April 2

VIRTUAL Rise & Shine Storytime

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5

Get your morning off to a fantastic start with light stretches, interactive stories and songs, rhymes, and finger plays. In addition to our weekly song repertoire, children will have the opportunity to request a few favourite songs that we will happily sing together.

Mondays, Mar. 15–April 26
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 31

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled April 2

VIRTUAL ABCs & 123s

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Explore numbers and letters with engaging rhymes, fingerplays, stories, and movement games. Classes feature fun ways for children to incorporate literacy and numeracy into their day. At the end of each session, your facilitators will share an activity challenge and a craft idea to try at home.

Mondays, Mar. 15–April 26
12:30–1 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled April 1

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled April 2

VIRTUAL Animal Crackers (ZOO FRIENDS)

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Animal Crackers is an exciting program where families learn about animals big and small. Through interactive stories, activities, and crafts, participants will meet a different animal each class. This session, all our animal friends live at the zoo!

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10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
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11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
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VIRTUAL Bookworms

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Together, we will explore fantastic stories written by notable children's authors, learn new songs and fingerplays, and play educational games. At the end of class, your facilitators will share a craft idea to try at home.

Mondays, Mar. 15–April 26
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled April 1

VIRTUAL Diggin' with the Dinos

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Be prepared to have a "ROARing" good time as we bravely explore the world of dinosaurs both large and small. On this journey, participants will learn about the T-rex, Stegosaurus, and other interesting dinosaur friends through rhymes, books, and games.

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

VIRTUAL Growing Up Green

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

An environmentally themed program where preschoolers and their parents/caregivers will learn about the great outdoors in springtime! Through songs, books, and nature-based challenges, participants will gain an appreciation for the world around them.

Wednesdays, April 7–28
6:15–6:45 p.m.

VIRTUAL Jack Be Nimble

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Join in the fun at *Jack Be Nimble*, an "in-motion" based literacy program where parents/caregivers and children play and learn together! This VIRTUAL class features easy stretches, lively scarf songs, active challenges, and skill-building activities.

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11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 31

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29
12:30–1 p.m.
Cancelled April 1

Sundays, Mar. 21–April 25
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled April 4

VIRTUAL Mr. Golden Sun!

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Bringing a bit of warmth to your day, join us for "fun in the sun" as we sing songs and enjoy summer-inspired stories, games, and crafts to make at home. Feel free to dress for the tropics!

Mondays, Mar. 15–April 26
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Mondays, Mar. 15–April 26
6:15–6:45 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 31

VIRTUAL Oodles of Doodles

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Kinder Links facilitators are excited to virtually guide your family through easy art experiences perfect for preschool children. Using recycled items from around the home, together we'll create beautiful masterpieces! Participants will receive a short supply list for this program. Should you require any crafting supplies, items can be picked up at the Kinder Links office by appointment only. Details on the drive-thru supply pickup dates will be provided upon registration.

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29
11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Cancelled April 1

Sundays, Mar. 21–April 25
10:30–11:15 a.m.
Cancelled April 4

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VIRTUAL Pirate & Princess Playtime

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Yo ho, yo ho! Join us for a royally wonderful class filled with songs, stories, counting games, and pirate- and princess-themed activities. Together we will play like pirates, waltz like princesses, and swing into action like a brave superhero. Participants are encouraged to dress up for this epic adventure!

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
12:30–1 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29
6:15–6:45 p.m.
Cancelled April 1

VIRTUAL Purple Stew Storytime

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Serving up a fun way to learn about nutritious food and healthy eating, *Purple Stew* offers a tasty selection of stories, rhymes, fingerplays, and educational activities. Each class we will chat about healthy eating and share ideas for nutritious snacks.

New songs, stories, and craft ideas will be shared during this spring session.

Mondays, Mar. 15–April 26
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 29

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 31

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30
10:30–11 a.m.
Cancelled April 2

Saturdays, Mar. 20–April 24
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cancelled April 3

VIRTUAL Pyjama Band

Best enjoyed by children 2 to 5

Join our virtual band and play along to your favourite songs and rhymes. Participants will learn how to make homemade instruments using materials from their own home. Together, we will enjoy stories and games. Don't forget to wear your PJs!

Contact the Kinder Links office to borrow a collection of small instruments to use for the duration of this **FREE** class.

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
8:30–9 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29
8:30–9 a.m.
Cancelled April 1

VIRTUAL Spring Frogs & Polliwogs

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Stories, crafts, and games will keep participants hopping at this celebration of spring. Together, participants will enjoy a high-energy sing-along, featuring green frogs, brown bunnies, yellow ducks, red ladybugs, and brilliantly coloured butterflies.

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

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Cancelled Mar. 31

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled April 1

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30
11:30–12 p.m.
Cancelled April 2

VIRTUAL Stars & Spaceships

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Zoom, zoom, zoom—we're going to the moon! Climb aboard a spaceship as we embark on a spectacular adventure to outer space. Through songs, stories, and space-themed games and activities, young astronauts will learn about twinkly stars, the Milky Way, and planets. At the end of each class mission, facilitators will share ideas for creating galaxy-inspired art to make at home.

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled Mar. 30

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29
9:30–10 a.m.
Cancelled April 1

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30
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VIRTUAL Whale Tales

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Journey under the sea for an adventure where we will play, learn, and laugh. Together we'll dive into fantastic books, games, and math activities celebrating our friends who live in the deep blue sea. Enjoy participating in a seaside serenade and learn interesting underwater craft ideas to try after class.

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9:30–10 a.m.

Cancelled Mar. 29

Wednesdays, Mar. 17–April 28

9:30–10 a.m.

Cancelled Mar. 31

Fridays, Mar. 19–April 30

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Cancelled April 2

Saturdays, Mar. 20–April 24

10:30–11 a.m.

Cancelled April 3

VIRTUAL Wheels on the Bus

Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5

Drivers, start your engines and join us for a fast-paced, action-packed literacy program! Together, we'll explore the world of cars, trucks, buses, and construction vehicles with songs, stories, and interactive games. Before the checkered flag signals the end of class, Kinder Links facilitators will give participants an interesting idea for a creative art experience that can be made at home.

Tuesdays, Mar. 16–April 27

10:30–11 a.m.

Cancelled Mar. 30

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29

9:30–10 a.m.

Cancelled April 1



VIRTUAL All Aboard the Friend Ship

Best enjoyed by children ages 3 to 5

Join the crew as we set sail on an interesting voyage filled with songs, books, puppets, and games. On the "Friend Ship," participants will have fun learning about being a good friend, taking turns, understanding and managing their emotions, and developing problem-solving skills.

Mondays, Mar. 15–April 26

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Cancelled Mar. 29

Thursdays, Mar. 18–April 29

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Kinder Links Arts & Craft Packages

Discover your child's inner artist with our **FREE** arts and craft packages. Kinder Links will host a monthly "drive-thru" arts and craft package distribution where your child will receive five prepared crafts to make at home. Pickup dates and location will be sent to registered families. Please note: Kinder Links arts and craft packages need to be picked up by participants. Delivery and/or mail service is not available for this program.

Kinder Links Pen Pals

Introduce your child, ages three to five, to the joys of reading and writing through RETSD's Kinder Links Pen Pals program. Our team of Kinder Links facilitators is looking forward to connecting with preschool families this year. As a Kinder Links Pen Pal, your child will receive a special package in the mail featuring a short letter, notes, songs/rhymes, a joke, stickers, and a seasonal activity to try. The best part of being a pen pal is writing back! We can hardly wait to start receiving letters/drawings from your child(ren). For every letter sent to the Kinder Links office, we'll reply with a special package filled with fun activities for your child. This is an excellent way to get your child excited about literacy while having fun practising their printing, drawing, and numeracy skills.

Kinder Links VIRTUAL Birthday Greetings

Celebrate your child's birthday with a special greeting from the Kinder Links team! In this 15-minute VIRTUAL session, a Kinder Links facilitator will sing the happy birthday song to your child, share a book, and play an educational game to help celebrate their big day. Appointments are available afternoons and early evenings. Please note: VIRTUAL Birthday Greetings appointments are available for children six years and under, as availability permits, and must be booked in advance.



Registration for Kinder Links @ Home begins immediately by email at kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca or leave a message at 204.669.4043. When registering, please provide the following information:

- Parent/caregiver name
- Names and ages of all children to attend the program
- Home address
- Home/cellphone number
- Email address where you wish to be contacted/sent link to VIRTUAL programming
- VIRTUAL program(s) you wish to register for (name of program, date and time)

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Registering for Kindergarten

Registration begins on site at all early years schools at 8 a.m. on March 1, 2021. To register, please provide proof of age documentation for your child (e.g. birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, Manitoba Health Card, INAC status card, birth registration signed by the director of Vital Statistics). You will also be asked for two pieces of identification for proof of residency (e.g. driver's licence, Manitoba Health Card, tenancy agreement, offer to purchase documents, utility bill). For your convenience, registration forms can be found at www.retsd.mb.ca > Schools > (click on designated school your child will attend) > Documents & Forms > Registration.

Countdown to Kindergarten Issue of Kinder Links

The Countdown to Kindergarten issue of Kinder Links is now available! This special issue provides tips for helping your child get excited for school and details on FREE summer programming for children entering kindergarten in fall 2021. A printed copy of this Kinder Links newsletter will be provided to families as part of their kindergarten registration paperwork. Visit the RETSD website at www.retsd.mb.ca or request a copy by contacting the Kinder Links office—kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca or leave a message at 204.669.4043.

FREE BABY GIFT FOR NEW PARENTS

Did you just have a baby? River East Transcona School Division and the Early Childhood Matters Parent Child Coalitions in River East and Transcona would like to help you celebrate this wonderful event. We have a book, *I Love It When You*, which we'd love to give to you to keep and enjoy. To receive your FREE book, contact us at kmartino@retsd.mb.ca or 204.669.4043. Please leave us your mailing address, child's name, and date of birth.

THE EARLY LEARNING TEAM

We are pleased to provide early learning and family support to families living in River East Transcona. Feel free to contact us should you have questions regarding our preschool initiatives.

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