

## Programming for Preschoolers & Their Parents | Winter 2021

204.669.4043 • [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto: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.

This winter, 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.

Mondays, Jan. 11–Feb. 22  
11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  
*Class is cancelled Feb. 15*

Wednesdays, Jan. 13–Feb. 24  
12:30–1:15 p.m.

Fridays, Jan. 15–Feb. 26  
11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Fridays, Jan. 22–Feb. 26  
12:30–1:15 p.m.

### VIRTUAL Gift of Words

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 3 years*

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.

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10:30–11 a.m.  
*Class is cancelled Feb. 15*

Tuesdays, Jan. 12–Feb. 23  
9:30–10 a.m.

Wednesdays, Jan. 13–Feb. 24  
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Thursdays, Jan. 14–Feb. 25  
10:30–11 a.m.

## Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

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For more information about the board of trustees, visit: [www.retsd.mb.ca/BoardofTrustees](http://www.retsd.mb.ca/BoardofTrustees)

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### VIRTUAL Night Owls

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5*

Have a hoot playing games, singing songs, 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, Jan. 12–Feb. 23  
6:15–6:45 p.m.

### VIRTUAL Once Upon a Rhyme

*Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 3 ½*

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!

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Wednesdays, Jan. 13–Feb. 24  
10:30–11 a.m.

Thursdays, Jan. 14–Feb. 25  
9:30–10 a.m.

Fridays, Jan. 15–Feb. 26  
9:30–10 a.m.

### 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 which we will happily sing together.

Tuesdays, Jan. 12–Feb. 23  
8:30–9 a.m.

Thursdays, Jan. 14–Feb. 25  
8:30–9 a.m.

### VIRTUAL 1, 2, Buckle My Shoe

*Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5*

Count on having a great time singing, rhyming, and hearing special stories with an early numeracy focus. Classes feature fun ways for children to incorporate counting into their lives and explore numbers through educational games and activities.

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11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

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Wednesdays, Jan. 13–Feb. 24  
9:30–10 a.m.

Fridays, Jan. 15–Feb. 26  
9:30–10 a.m.



### VIRTUAL Animal Crackers

*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!

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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.

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12:30–1 p.m.

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10:30–11 a.m.

Wednesdays, Jan. 13–Feb. 24  
9:30–10 a.m.

Thursdays, Jan. 14–Feb. 25  
10:30–11 a.m.

Fridays, Jan. 15–Feb. 26  
10:30–11 a.m.

Sundays, Jan. 17–Feb. 28  
10:30–11 a.m.

### 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.

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10:30–11 a.m.

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Thursdays, Jan. 14–Feb. 25  
10:30–11 a.m.

Saturdays, Jan. 16–Feb. 27  
9:30–10 a.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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10:30–11 a.m.

Thursdays, Jan. 14–Feb. 25  
9:30–10 a.m.

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11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Sundays, Jan. 17–Feb. 28  
9:30–10 a.m.

### VIRTUAL Let It Snow!

*Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5*

Let's celebrate the magic of winter with songs and stories about snow and seasonal fun! During our time together, participants will learn cool facts about snowflakes, ice, and outdoor experiments they can try after class.

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11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

### 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 preschooler 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.

Saturdays, Jan. 16–Feb. 27  
10:30–11:15 a.m.

### VIRTUAL Mr. Golden Sun!

*Best enjoyed by children ages 2 to 5*

Bringing a bit of warmth to your wintery 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!

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### 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 and fingerplays, and educational activities. Each class we will chat about healthy eating and share ideas for nutritious snacks.

Tuesdays, Jan. 12–Feb. 23

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Wednesdays, Jan. 13–Feb. 24

6:15–6:45 p.m.

Fridays, Jan. 15–Feb. 26

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

### 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.

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Sundays, Jan. 17–Feb. 28

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

### VIRTUAL SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Fire Safety & Storytime

Tuesday, Jan. 5

6–6:45 p.m.

Learn about the importance of fire safety with firefighter Leigh. During this 45-minute interactive session, she'll share important fire safety information that children should be aware of. Firefighter Leigh will also show us her special firefighter gear and read a story book about fire safety and firefighters! Feel free to dress up as a firefighter or wear the colour orange for this class.

### VIRTUAL PARENTING SUPPORT

#### First Friends: Developing Empathy and Building Peer Relationships in the Early Years

Monday, Jan. 4

1–2:30 p.m.

This virtual workshop focuses on providing early literacy resources, tools, and strategies that support the emerging social-emotional skills of children from birth to age 6. Together we will learn about:

- Supporting the building of respect and development of empathy in preschoolers
- Sharing concepts of friendship in the early years: how to make a friend, have fun with friends, include friends, play with friends, etc.
- Discussing how caregivers can nurture and model behaviours that will facilitate this process

- Literacy extension ideas that can support the social aspect of early childhood
- Provision of a suggested book list with titles that incorporate empathy and friendship concepts

### Raising Healthy Eaters Workshop

Tuesdays, Jan. 5 & 12\*

1–2 p.m.

This informative workshop, developed by the WRHA Public Health Registered Dietitians, will provide parents/caregivers with effective strategies to encourage their children to become competent eaters and develop good feelings about food and eating. Participants will learn about Ellyn Satter's "Division of Responsibility in Feeding," between the parent and the child. Transform family meals into a more joyful experience, free from drama and conflict.

**\*Please note Raising Health Eaters is a two-day workshop**



**Registration begins immediately by email at [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto: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)

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### Kinder Links Videos

Enjoy Kinder Links videos featuring your favourite songs and finger plays, wonderful stories, and ideas for developing your child's creative skills. These short videos, showcasing our talented Kinder Links facilitators, will be sent out each week to families by email.

### Kinder Links Arts & Craft Packages

Discover your child's inner artist with our 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 five years and under, as availability permits, and must be booked in advance.

### 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](mailto: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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