

EVERY DAY!

WTK Learning Through Play Series
September 2021 Vol 1, Issue 1

DEAR KINDERGARTEN FAMILY,

We hope that you and your child are experiencing a safe and positive transition to school, whether in person or learning at home.

Welcome to the first issue of the WTK Learning Through Play series. We are delighted that you could be part of this new opportunity in the Welcome to Kindergarten™ program!

This newsletter will provide you with ideas on how to use the WTK bag of resources at home. We hope you will try some of these with your child as you talk, read, create and play with your child every day!

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TALKING AND SINGING BUILD:

- relationships
- memory
- rhythm & rhyme
- belonging
- enjoyment of music
- listening & speaking skills
- an appreciation for cultural stories & oral traditions



READING BUILDS:

- vocabulary
- a sense of story
- knowledge
- print, letter & number awareness



CREATING BUILDS:

- problem-solving skills
- imagination & personal expression
- small & large muscle control and coordination
- measurement, geometry & spatial sense



PLAYING BUILDS:

- self-awareness & regulation
- math concepts & vocabulary
- confidence & well-being
- empathy & understanding
- decision-making skills
- cooperation
- physical skills
- curiosity

YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND BEST TEACHER!

- Follow your child's lead as you play and discover together
- Talk and read with your child in your first language
- Help your child to share and take turns
- Encourage your child to make choices and decisions
- Celebrate your child's learning

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TALKING AND READING TOGETHER



WHY IT MATTERS

Reading provides children with a wide range of ideas, views and experiences.

READ ALOUDS

- Talk and read with your child in your first language.
- Explore books that interest your child.
- While reading, ask open-ended questions, for example: "What do you think...", "What would happen if...", "I wonder..."

Hearing a story read aloud helps children learn to focus and appreciate the sound of language.



There is no app to replace your lap – spend time reading with your child.



YouTube is a great source for free Read Aloud videos. Check out [this link](#) about reading to children.

EXPLORING MATH TOGETHER



WHY IT MATTERS

Children build science and math skills when they sort, compare, measure, describe and predict.

FINGERS, FINGERS!

Children need experience counting to fully understand number concepts. Let's start with our fingers!

- Hold your hands behind your back.
- Together with your child chant: "Fingers, fingers, 1, 2, 3. How many fingers do you see?"
- Using two hands, hold up three fingers.
- Children can say 'three' or show three with their fingers.
- Vary how you show each number on your fingers.
Example: five can be two and three fingers or one and four fingers. It is important to show five in many ways before slowly moving up to 10.



COUNTING ON

Counting on is an important math concept for children.

- When going up or down stairs, count the first four steps, stop, and then count on with five, six, etc., rather than starting back at one.
- Encourage your child to predict how many steps it is from their bedroom to the kitchen, or how many scoops of cereal it will take to fill their bowl. Then compare the actual number of steps or scoops.
- Place the magnetic numbers in a container. Take turns pulling a number out of the container. Name the number and then count on to 10 after identifying the number you have pulled!

CREATIVE EXPLORATION TOGETHER



WHY IT MATTERS

Children develop independence, problem-solving and thinking skills through creative exploration.

PLAYING WITH PLAYDOUGH

Encourage your child to explore using [playdough](#) and a variety of materials, for example: cookie cutters, stones, potato masher, etc.

- Model creating a scene for a story with the playdough using materials such as pinecones, animals, action figures, etc. and telling a story to go with them.
- Invite your child to create their own story and share it with you or their friends.



TREE EXPLORATION

Find a special tree in your neighbourhood.

- Encourage your child to draw and describe what they feel, smell, see and hear.
- Visit your tree through spring, summer, fall and winter to observe what stays the same and what changes.

EXPLORING FEELINGS TOGETHER



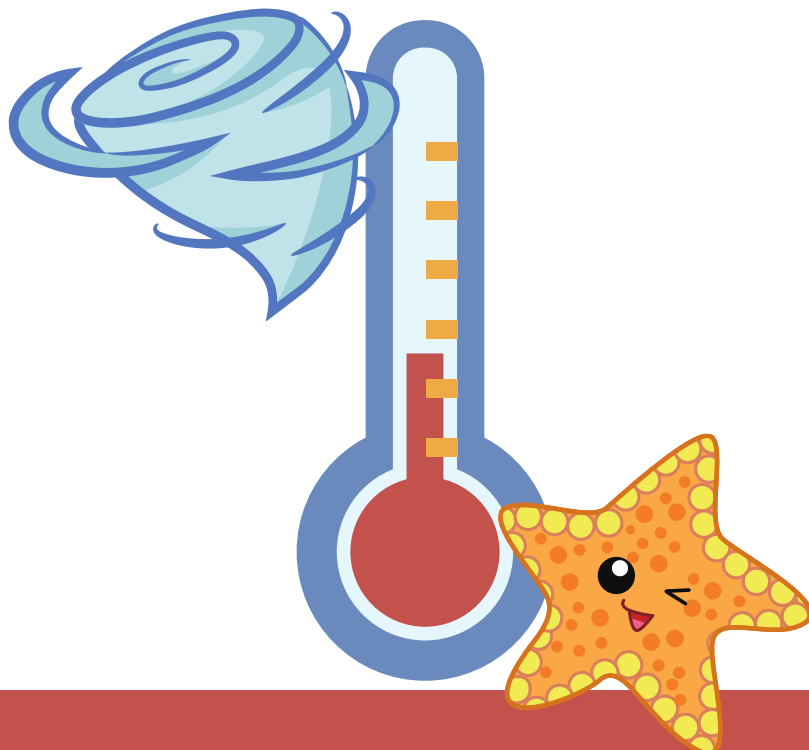
WHY IT MATTERS

Children learn to understand and manage their feelings, which helps them feel and show empathy for others and resolve conflict.

STARFISH & TORNADOES

To help children notice how much energy they're feeling inside, Starfish & Tornadoes is a useful tool.

- Draw a picture of a thermometer with a starfish at the bottom and a tornado at the top.
- Ask if your child feels calm and peaceful like a starfish or revved up like a tornado.
- Brainstorm ways to feel calm like a starfish, for example, physical activity to release energy, listening to [calming music](#), and so on.



HERE ARE MORE RESOURCES TO EXPLORE:

[Promoting Literacy from Birth](#), Caring for Kids, Canadian Paediatric Society

[Math for Families](#), Achieve BC, Government of British Columbia

[Self-regulation Strategies for Children](#), Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education

[The Best Playdough Recipe](#), IHeartNaptime.net

[Keeping Kids Active during the Pandemic](#), First Nations Health Authority

[Welcome to Kindergarten Cookbook](#), The Learning Partnership

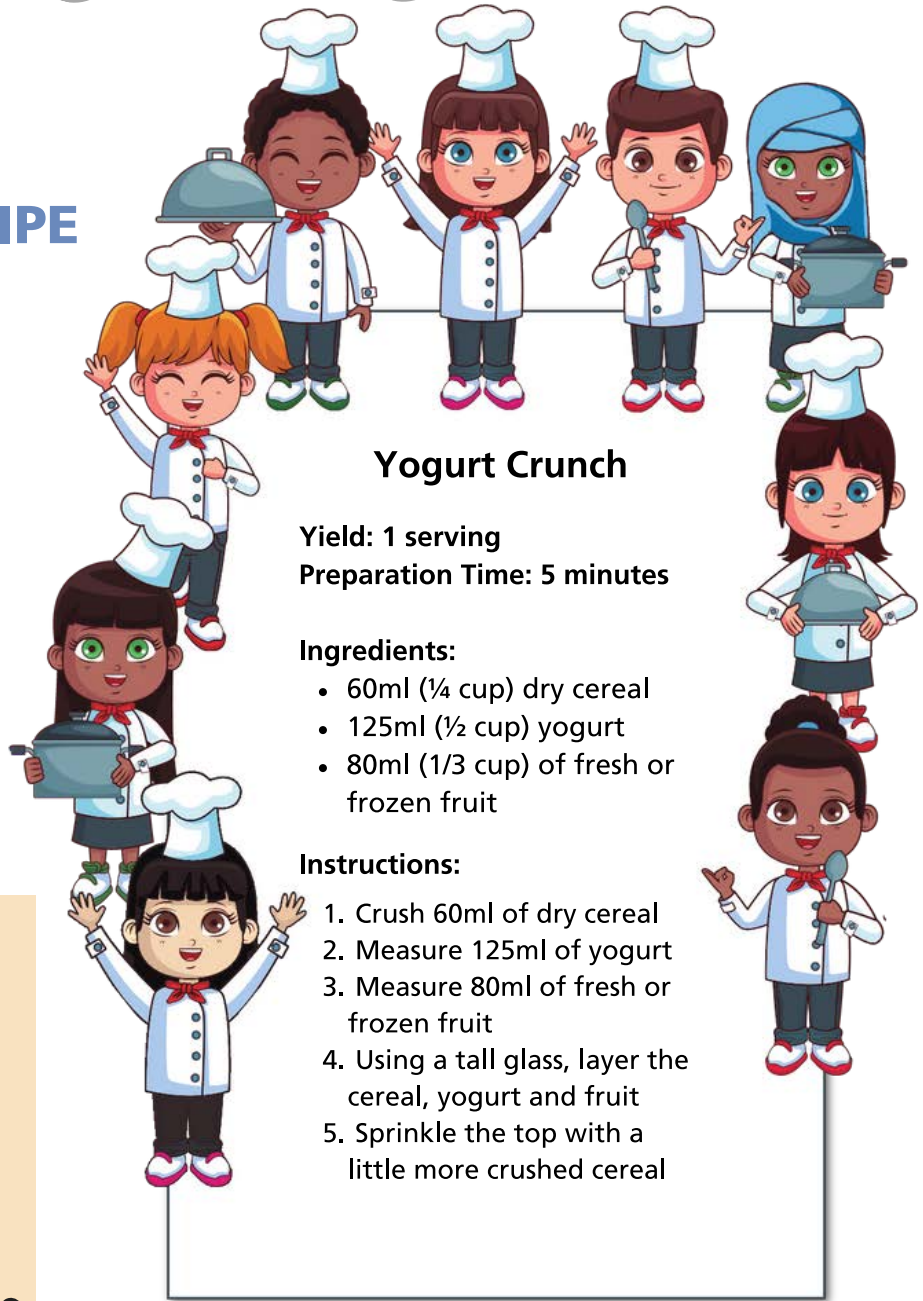
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YOGURT CRUNCH RECIPE

Yogurt Crunch is nutritious and delicious and something your child can learn to make independently.

You can introduce descriptive taste and texture-related words such as the crunchiness of the cereal, the smooth and creamy taste of the yogurt, and the tanginess or sweetness of the fruit.

Ask questions such as: "What is happening?" "What do you see and hear?" "How does it taste?"



Yogurt Crunch

Yield: 1 serving

Preparation Time: 5 minutes

Ingredients:

- 60ml (¼ cup) dry cereal
- 125ml (½ cup) yogurt
- 80ml (1/3 cup) of fresh or frozen fruit

Instructions:

1. Crush 60ml of dry cereal
2. Measure 125ml of yogurt
3. Measure 80ml of fresh or frozen fruit
4. Using a tall glass, layer the cereal, yogurt and fruit
5. Sprinkle the top with a little more crushed cereal



We'd love to hear from you!

Please complete our short survey and let us know how you and your child are using the WTK materials. Your feedback will help us evaluate and improve the program!

Complete the survey today!



ABOUT THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Learning Partnership is a registered Canadian charity that brings together business, educators and partners to design and deliver inclusive innovation education programs focused on K-8 students in publicly-funded schools across Canada. Our programs build the essential skills and competencies needed in tomorrow's leaders, innovators and problem solvers. They enhance provincial curricula, are aligned with Canada's innovation agenda, and are made available to students, parents and educators through the generous support of our education sector partners and funding from corporate, government, foundation and private donors.

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