



## Frequently Asked Questions about Junior Kindergarten at Turnbull School:

Since Junior Kindergarten is the entry point of your child's educational career, you may have some very specific questions that we would be happy to answer. In the meantime, here are some common ones that arise from parents:

### **Is there a nap time?**

No, there is not a scheduled nap time; however, if a child is feeling tired he or she may choose to spend quiet time in our reading loft, resting or engaging in quiet activities.

### **What do you do all day?**

As children do their best learning in the morning, we typically structure our day with a focus on more academic subjects in the morning and less structured activities, such as art, reading buddies, computer classes and physical education classes in the afternoon.

We begin each day with a morning circle routine. The children are responsible for many parts of this routine as they carry out duties ranging from introducing the calendar and determining and graphing the weather to the waving of the Canadian flag and singing of our national anthem. The children are also responsible for determining the absence of any classmates and reporting this information to our school administrator.

As a whole group, we discuss the schedule and theme of the day and read the morning message. This begins our morning literacy period. Following the mini lesson focus of the morning message, the children engage in a number of different literacy activities. Generally a whole group read aloud or shared reading lesson occurs, followed by smaller and differentiated group follow up activities which may range from working with letters and words in a tactile fashion (magnetic boards) to writer's workshop involving journal writing, to independent and guided reading groups.

Our mathematics programme focuses on learning by doing and the construction of knowledge through experience. Concepts are introduced in a large group setting (usually at the carpet) through the use of a variety of manipulatives. Children are encouraged to participate actively in lessons and to ask and explore questions and ideas about the concept presented. Following the large group lesson, children work at a variety of centres to explore and extend their understanding. It is also through centres that the children's different developmental needs are met as centre based learning is, by nature, multileveled thus enabling each child to be appropriately challenged.

Also each morning the children participate in French learning through the use of the AIM programme (Accelerated Integrated Method). This programme incorporates gestures for nouns, verbs and phrases, and at the JK level it focuses on the use of full sentences for simple, practical classroom questions and instructions. In addition, the children are exposed to music, videos and different themes (in conjunction with our overall theme study units) in French. Throughout the day the children are also exposed to French instructions and given simple directions in French during other subject areas. In these ways French is integrated through their day in a natural way where students become comfortable hearing and speaking simple phrases in both languages.

Also in the morning, children have a free choice play time. During this time, they develop their language and communication skills and their understanding of the roles, rules and concepts through genuine interactions with each other at various centres

### **How does lunch work?**

The children are supervised by their homeroom teachers for lunch. We start our lunch around 12pm and outdoor recess begins at 12:45 pm and ends at 1:15. This gives the children lots of time to eat with the support of their teachers and then some nice recreational time.

### **Do the children have recess?**

Yes, there are two recesses. A morning recess of 15 minutes and a lunchtime recess of 30 minutes. The entire school yard is surrounded by a fence to protect our children from strangers and stray pets. There are two fun filled play structures and one, in the shape of a truck, is designed with this young age in mind.

### **Do the children go outside?**

Yes, for both recesses and early drop off before school (8-8:25am) the children are outside with the exception of inclement weather. Therefore, we ask that they come ready to make the most of outdoor play.

### **Do the children go on field trips?**

Yes, and these excursions are related to the curriculum, taking advantage of the Ottawa region's museums, theatre and outdoor education facilities, and other venues.