

## TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN GRADE 1 . . . .



Kindergarten years are critical for developing basic knowledge and skills necessary for success in Grade 1. Young children need to develop independence, confidence, a 'joie de vivre' and a curiosity to learn in order to be successful throughout their school life.

Young children also need a sound phonetic background that will lead to language development, literacy and reading. Developing basic math concepts and competency builds a foundation to face the numeration, patterning and geometric challenges in their later years.

We have developed a two-year **ACADEMIC** Kindergarten program that will meet and exceed the needs and interests of four to six year olds. Consequently, I am confident that your child not only will **LOVE** coming to Brant but also will be well prepared for Grade 1.

Dr. Heather Knoepfli  
Director

## SIX MYTHS OF THE BOARD'S FULL-DAY "PLAY-BASED" EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

### **Myth #1: It's COMPULSORY**

Attending a Board school is not compulsory until Grade 1. Kindergarten is a **PARENT'S CHOICE**. Because you want the very best education for your Kindergarten child, you may choose whatever Kindergarten program you like or you may keep your child home until Grade 1.

### **Myth #2: It's FREE.**

Board programs are **NOT** free, particularly if you need childcare before and/or after school. Costs may include:

1. fees for Before and After School programs
2. cost of snacks and lunches (which we provide daily). This is a significant cost over the course of a year.
3. fees for PA days, Christmas, March Break, early dismissal days, and full days during the Board's staggered enrolment during September.
4. some school supplies are provided by parents.

### **Myth #3: My child will make FRIENDS who will be important in Grade 1.**

This is the biggest myth of all! It is **TRUE** that children need friends. However, special friends and long-term friends are typically not made in Kindergarten. Four to six year old children choose 'friends' to play with depending more on **WHAT** the friend is doing than **WHO** the child is. Many children change schools in Grade 1 and do just fine.

### **Myth #4: It's IDEAL for every child.**

If you know and understand children, you recognize that they develop and learn at different rates and in different ways.

Brant's smaller, more intimate setting with an emphasis on **CARE** as well as **LEARNING** is able to meet the individual needs of your child.

### **Myth #5: It must be HIGH QUALITY.**

This is another huge myth. A program is only as good as:

1. the on-site **TEACHERS** who interact with your child on a daily basis.
2. the **PROGRAM** itself. What does it include? Does it focus on language and literacy? Are there enrichment activities? Will it stretch your child to his/her potential?
3. the **TEACHER: CHILD RATIO**. It must be low if children are to get individual attention.
4. The number of **TEACHER CONTACT HOURS** over the course of the year. Here, Brant has a clear advantage over a Board program.

### **Myth #6. It runs ALL YEAR.**

Board programs don't operate during the summer or over Christmas and March Break. They will not operate on PA days.

Brant provides a seamless and continual program throughout the year for children enrolled in our Kindergarten program. During the summer period, an Adventure Camp mode of programming is developed with an emphasis on the environment, nature and outside exploration.



## ADVANTAGES OF OUR TWO-YEAR FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

### 1. AN ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

We focus on language and literacy and mathematics. Most of our graduates are beginner readers going into Grade 1.

### 2. MORE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION AND MORE TEACHING HOURS

Our staff:child ratios are 1:8 to 1:10 compared to much higher ratios for Board programs. We also program for the full school year, while Board programs do not operate during Christmas, March Break, PA Days and part of September.

### 3. SEPARATE CLASSES AND PROGRAMS FOR YEAR 1 (JK) AND YEAR 2 (SK)

We provide separate classrooms, teachers, and programming, while most Board programs combine the JK and SK children within the same classroom.

### 4. MANY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to our regular program, we provide many enrichment activities:

- French – a great start, especially if you are considering French immersion for your child.
- Roots & Shoots – a program that teaches care and compassion for the environment, animals and the community.
- Wiz-Tech – a creative problem-solving program developed exclusively for Brant students.
- a computer lab with eight computers
- an optional swimming program
- outdoor programs on our Adventure Playgrounds designed for Kindergarten children

## WHERE CAN MY KINDERGARTEN CHILD GET THE BEST EDUCATION AND PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS IN GRADE 1?

It is not the **SCHOOL** that counts. It is the **TEACHERS** who will be interacting with your child each day.

It is not just the **LEARNING** activities that are provided. It is also the **CARE** that is provided on a daily basis.

It is not just the fun and **PLAY** that all children love. It is also about the rich array of **LEARNING** activities and **ENRICHED** activities that pique children's curiosity and motivate them to learn.

### COMPARING COSTS . . .

Comparing our costs against the costs accrued in a Board Kindergarten, you will find our fees affordable, particularly when you factor in before and after school fees, lunches and snacks, the child tax deduction and the child care benefit.

To learn more, come and talk with us or plan to attend one of our Kindergarten Information Sessions. Please phone for dates.

**\$40.00**  
**DISCOUNT COUPON**  
to be applied against registration fees.

- Must be presented at time of registration for Brant's full-time Two-Year Kindergarten. • Limit one coupon per child.
- Offer expires on March 31st of the child's year of eligibility into Year 1 of Brant's Two-Year Kindergarten.

## Why your child may benefit from our two-year ACADEMIC KINDERGARTEN



**STARTING IN SEPTEMBER  
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE**

*To register or for  
more information  
call*

**905-634-5518**  
[bccl@bellnet.ca](mailto:bccl@bellnet.ca)



[www.brantchildrenscentre.com](http://www.brantchildrenscentre.com)