

Kindergarten Handbook

Brantford Christian School



THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING
OF WISDOM. PROV. 9:10



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Building
Christian
Students



Welcome to Brantford Christian School

We extend a most sincere welcome to you and your child who is enrolling for the first time at Brantford Christian School. We pray that this decision will be a blessing for you and your child.

Since each child was created by God as a unique individual with his own abilities, tendencies and experiences, the Brantford Christian School Kindergarten program aims to encourage development of these gifts and talents by providing:

- an understanding that God is Creator and Lord of all
- an environment in which the child may learn of God's great love and how that love is reflected in the lives of his people
- activities of both work and play
- preparation for more formal education centred around the Word of God

This booklet is designed to help you and your child prepare for school. It contains General Information, a section about Readiness Development and a description of the Goals of the Christian Kindergarten. We trust you will find the material helpful and that your child's beginning days of school will be a pleasant and happy experience for all of you.

The adjustment to a new social experience outside the home is a big step. We dedicate ourselves to do everything we can to provide for your child a well-rounded education from a Biblical perspective and to make him/her feel safe and secure from the outset.

Your child will be secure and happy if you show your support for the school and also show that you know this is the best place for your child to be. If parents demonstrate confidence in the school, the child will find the school to be a happy place, filled with many new and wonderful things to do.

We are confident that, with God's indispensable blessing, your child's experience in Kindergarten at Brantford Christian School will be a positive introduction to education. It is our desire to build a strong link between the Christian home and the Christian School.

You are very welcome to visit our Kindergarten classes. Simply notify the school office and we will be happy to arrange for your visit.



Justin DeMoor
Principal

Is Your Child Ready?

Not all children mature at the same rate, or during the same season. When you compare your child with another child of the same age you find areas of similar development and areas where there is a wide difference between the two. The law in Ontario states that a child who turns six years of age before September 1 of a certain year must go to Grade One that year. It also says that a child who turns six between September 1 and December 31st of the current year is eligible for Junior Kindergarten.

Conclusion: Therefore, any child that is born after September 1st may stay home until the next school year. In some cases it is most beneficial for the child to do so. This is especially the case if the child is immature for his/her age, or if he/she has a difficult time dealing with stress or anger or if the child is developmentally not ready. A child who is not developmentally ready may have a difficult time with printing letters, cutting paper, and recognizing letters.

Readiness Development

Your child has been getting ready for a long time in everything he/she does. In the weeks or months before he/she goes off to school, you can help guide his/her energetic sense of discovery in ways that will prepare your child for the religious, physical, social, emotional and intellectual development that will continue and prosper in the coming year in Kindergarten.

The preparation time for school is not a matter of overhauling your child in order to deliver a perfect little learner at the school door, but a time during which you encourage the development of basic habits and sensitivities that will be useful in the development of the unique person whom God has created and with whom you have been entrusted. All the preparation should come casually, not as a drill, and preferably during the course of a day's events. Lots of praise for honest efforts and jobs well done are important ingredients for school preparation.

Readiness for school can be developed in the following six areas:

1. Visual-Motor (Eye and Hand Co-ordination)



Provide your child with constructive manipulative toys – such as crayons, blocks, and other building materials, clay, beads, scissors, tinker toys, Lego, all varieties of paper, puzzles, balls and music. Cutting and pasting are also important. Try to determine which hand your child prefers. If he is left-handed provide him with a pair of child's "lefty" scissors.

2. Listening (For Sounds, Paying Attention)

Help your child use words to describe shapes and sizes, colour, likenesses, differences, rhymes, opposites. Ask her to describe what she is hearing, i.e. a train whistle, a car, a bird singing, etc.

Teach your child to follow directions. Keep directions simple and be sure she does what you tell her to do. Help your child develop skills in listening and being attentive to stories, instructions, etc.

3. **Language (Vocabulary Development)**

Help your child to learn his proper name, age, address, telephone number and birth date. Encourage him to ask questions. Show respect to your child's ideas. LISTEN TO HIM.

Encourage your child's curiosity and interest. Help him feel good about himself. As much as possible avoid baby talk and coined names and expressions. They become obstacles to the child when he is in school.

4. **Numeracy Skills**

Learning to count is a very abstract art and achievement. Rattling off the numbers from one to ten or one to one hundred by rote does not implant a very deep idea of what constitutes mathematics. Hands on and eyes experience of the number system is very important. Some suggestions: set aside the face cards from a deck of playing cards. Line up one suit in a row from one to ten and let your child make a game of lining up the other suits to match. You can help her discover how the sets are grouped on each card and how the number is printed in the corner. You might add last month's calendar to the scene, to show the numbers in order. The ambitious child may even trace or copy the numbers onto blank paper. There is, however, no shame in not being able to get this far, and there is no fun in it if it becomes too much work. Don't hesitate to use fingers and toes for counting. Remember "This little pig went to market?" To teach her age, draw a group of five birthday cakes, with candles from one to five. This will give her a more understandable and less abstracted idea of the word "five".

5. **Social and Emotional**

Take him places; to the library, stores, airport, zoo, etc. Expose him to and make him aware of the world first-hand. Teach him the way to school, about traffic lights, and a healthy caution of strangers, to protect himself.

6. **Desire to Read**

You can help create the desire to read by reading to your child every day. Encourage her interest in reading in other ways also, i.e. reading traffic signs, recognizing labels, etc. Introduce your child to numbers and letters as her interests and awareness develop. If your child wishes to write her name, teach her to use lower case letters for all but the first letters of her name. Teach your child the alphabet song if she is interested.



Helpful Habits

The following are some helpful habits that you can develop in your child that will be of benefit to him in school.

Develop His Five Senses

How to **see**: help him to notice things around him, how to be perceptive. Explain to him what he sees in nature, i.e. notice that leaves of different trees have different shapes, bright and dull, pale and deep, etc. Play games such as "What is missing?" For example, draw a stick figure with missing parts to see what is absent, or leave out pieces of a picture puzzle.

How to **hear**: encourage him to listen for sounds in nature, and all around him and to describe them with proper words. You can help your child to notice by playing listening games. For example, "close your eyes, what do you hear?" If you have musical instruments around the house, let him listen to simple melodies and repeat them. There are also many excellent children's CDs and tapes available.

How to use and develop his senses of **taste** and **smell**: at least three times per day you have an excellent opportunity to help him learn about taste and smell: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Let him help you occasionally with meal preparations. Many foods smell different before and after cooking. Questions such as, "is it bitter or sour or sweet?" could be asked.

Let your child **touch** things and help him to distinguish between rough and smooth, cold and hot, hard and soft, etc. Again, guessing games can be great fun. Varieties of cloth, textures of paper, wood, leather, glass, etc. provide you with numerous examples. Ground coffee, before and after serving its purpose, has quite a different texture.

Responsibility

Teach your child to put away her toys and hang up her clothes. Let her do simple chores. Show

her how to accept responsibilities such as setting the table, emptying the garbage, cleaning the yard. These activities prepare the way for many setting-up, cleaning-up, and errand running jobs to come in school. Be sure the chores are simple enough for her to do successfully. Praise her for a job well done.

Consideration

Show your child how to be considerate of others. Let him know about how you feel about such things as sharing toys with other children, waiting his turn, etc. Teach him to be kind and helpful to other people and to animals.

Rest

Your child needs adequate rest. Be sure she gets plenty of sleep and time to relax and be quiet. Help your child to start each day well rested. A minimum of ten hours of sleep with a regular bedtime and rising time is very healthy for your child.

Proper Diet

Every child feels better when he eats properly. Nourishing breakfasts and lunches are an important ingredient to make his days at kindergarten happy and successful.

Neatness and Manners

Teach your child to be neat about her toilet habits, and other health related habits, such as covering her mouth when she coughs, not putting objects in her mouth, flushing the toilet, etc.

Dress

Help your child learn to dress himself. Clothing should be large enough, simple and in good repair. Practice how to zip, button, tie shoes, etc. at home.

Our Kindergarten Program

A day in Kindergarten is a lot more than playing, painting and having nap time. Our program is carefully planned with specific objectives and goals for the child of this age.

Goals for each child in relation to the self:

- To develop a feeling of adequacy and self-respect by gaining recognition as a significant human being
- To develop a favourable attitude toward learning by experiencing success and by learning how to deal effectively with failure.
- To develop some independence by making his own choices and decisions and yet feel free to go to the teacher for help and assurance when needed.
- To recognize his own feelings and to begin to develop self-control of those feelings.
- To develop a sense of responsibility by caring for his possessions and materials.
- To develop habits of orderliness.

Goals for each child in relation to others:

- To develop respect for other children and for adults.
- To develop sympathy with and tolerance for the short-comings of others.
- To improve perception of the emotions and feelings of others.
- To learn how to work within a group.
- To develop acceptance and enjoyment of other children and to feel accepted by them.

Goals for each child in relation to physical development:

- To develop muscles by frequent vigorous physical activities.
- To improve co-ordination by manipulative activities.
- To learn the correct use of a variety of materials and equipment.
- To accept responsibility for the storage and arrangement of materials and equipment.

ACTIVITY CENTRES

Various Activity Centres offer a variety of materials to encourage each child in his own stage of development. Through these activities, both planned and informal, the child will have opportunities to:

- use all his senses in learning – seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, smelling
- recognize likeness and difference in colour, size, shape and sound
- sort and classify
- use mathematical vocabulary – big, little, more, less
- “read” – simple sign, messages, and easy-to-read books
- print his name and stories
- learn to work and play co-operatively
- learn to make proper choices
- enjoy social interaction with his peers
- develop listening skills

ART

Through various Art activities, the Kindergarten child becomes more aware of God’s creation and of his place in it. Art is a further way of learning, as well as a means of expressing what has been learned. Children in Kindergarten become acquainted with a variety of art media, textures and colours, and learn to use each with greater skill, via art activities, kindergarten children learn to:

- follow and obey instructions
- think on their own
- re-live experiences
- re-tell stories
- recall details
- organize thoughts in their minds
- work independently
- make good use of their time
- express creativity



The child’s attention span also lengthens as his/her interest increases and powers of concentration and perseverance grow. Art is also a tool by which the child’s self-confidence is built if we as teachers and parents find something of value in “his/her own” work for which to praise him/her. Kindergarten art is a vehicle of expression at the child’s individual level of maturity and ability which will advance him to more intricate thought processes and achievements. It is not a series of “art lessons” to be studied and appraised by the usual adult criteria.

KNOWLEDGE GROWTH

There is so much to learn! People, plants, animals, health, safety, weather...are all part of the world made by a caring Lord who wants his children to learn to live his way in his world. Getting to know the world around him, as it ought to be, will be experienced through exploring, discovering and instruction in the following thematic units:

Themes for JK

- Nursery Rhymes
- Autumn
- Transportation
- Christmas
- Winter
- Community Helpers
- Senses
- Spring
- The Farm

Themes for SK

- Creation
- Apples
- Weather and Seasons
- Habitats
- Christmas/Winter
- Bears/Winter
- Toys
- Let's Build
- Spring
- Bugs and Plants
- The Sea

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

In a relaxed but stimulating environment the child has many opportunities to develop skills in language development through conversation, discussion and questions. The child will be encouraged to:

- share ideas and experiences
- talk about his/her interests
- discuss plans for the day or for some special activity
- expand his/her vocabulary
- gain confidence in oral expression

As the child matures he shows an interest in written language, and begins to:

- develop an awareness of print in books, on labels, or on familiar signs
- realize that what is spoken can be written down and read
- briefly re-tell stories

Your child will be encouraged to bring a "Show & Tell" to develop verbal communication skills.

General Kindergarten Information

- Part-time Junior Kindergarten students attend school from 8:30 AM to 3:35 PM every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Part-time Senior Kindergarten students attend school from 8:30 AM to 3:35 PM every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The full-time program combines the Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten students in one class on Wednesdays and Fridays.
 - Punctuality is encouraged to develop good habits in your child.
 - Attendance is important
 - In case of illness, keep your child home from the onset. The law requires the school to exclude any child showing symptoms of communicable diseases. Please inform the school promptly of your child's absence.
- Your child should have a knapsack or school bag in which to carry his/her belongings to and from school.
- Every child should pack a simple, nutritious lunch. BCS has a balanced school day with two nutrition breaks. Students are encouraged to eat half of their lunch at each break. Please send a plastic cup with a handle to be kept at school throughout the year.
- Please label all clothing, jackets, mittens, lunch pails, boots, backpacks, etc. Labeling reduces the chance of losing items misplaced by your child. For safety reasons, clothing should be labeled on the inside of the item.
- Once the snow falls and the cold weather comes, children should be dressed in many layers of clothing. Please ensure that your child can dress and undress himself/herself with minimal adult help. Big, wide zippers in coats, hats that pull on over the ears, rather than tie on, and boots big enough for the child to pull on and off by himself/herself will give your child the feeling of independence.
 - Weather can be deceptive in the early mornings. Please send a jacket with your child in the fall even if the weatherman says it will be warm.
 - Comfortable, soft-soled shoes, preferably running shoes, will make it easier and safer for your child to play and work during the day. They should remain at school throughout the school year.
- A Parent Handbook for new families with details about school curriculum, rules and regulations, etc. is issued to parents at the time of registration.
- A weekly newsletter, Nuts & Bolts, is sent home via email the first day of each school week. This newsletter contains a Principal's message, upcoming events calendar and notes from each of the classroom teachers.
- A newsletter is published three times per year: Fall, Christmas and a special Spring Edition which coincides with Graduation.
- A large zippered communication bag is provided to ensure that notes, school work and important information is transported between home and school.

