

## Starting kindergarten is an exciting milestone for you and your child!

Your child's communication and social skills are important for building relationships, learning, playing, and interacting with others at school.

There are many ways to communicate. Some languages are spoken (e.g., Hindi, English), and some are signed (e.g., American Sign Language). Communication can also include facial expressions, gestures, pictures, and technology (e.g., speech generating devices).

We recognize and honour that children enter kindergarten with their own experiences, backgrounds, and ways of communicating and that each child will develop skills over time at their own rate.

**Hearing and vision are also important for learning and can change over time! Consider having your child's hearing and vision checked before school starts. This is especially important if your child:**

- has had a history of repeated and/or chronic ear infections,
- speaks loudly or often asks people to repeat
- squints, closes or covers one eye when looking at objects
- frequently rubs or touches their eyes

### For more information and resources check out:

- **Grandview Kids (speech and language)** – for information on preschool speech and language services and resources/strategies to support your child at home.
- **Grandview Kids (audiology)** – for information regarding hearing services.
- **DDSB Speech, Language and Hearing Services**– for information on speech and language services in school.
- **Eye See...Eye Learn Program** – for information on eye exams and finding an optometrist
- **Speech-Language & Audiology Canada and/or the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists Ontario** – for information on how to find a licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist in your area.

If you have any concerns about your child's development, please reach out to the staff at your child's school. By working together, we can help plan a smooth transition to school for your child.

