

January 12, 2010

**EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM  
FULL DAY LEARNING FOR 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS**

Dear Parents,

In October 2009, the Ministry of Education announced plans to phase in Full-Day Early Learning for four and five year olds beginning in September 2010. The District School Board of Niagara will be implementing 30 Early Learning classes in 11 schools this fall. The following schools have been selected for the Early Learning Program in September:

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4
James Morden Princess Margaret Stevensville Valleyway	McKay Richmond Street Ontario	College Street Senator Gibson Westdale	Memorial

Research has shown that full-day learning for four and five year olds will better prepare children for school and for life. It will provide them with opportunities to socialize with peers and develop the academic and social skills necessary for school, including laying the foundation for each child's reading, writing and math skills. In addition, full day learning also provides a smoother transition to Grade 1 and helps more students graduate.

Certified teachers and registered early childhood educators will work together to help children learn during the regular school day. By having two professionals working in the classroom at the same time, your children will receive more individualized attention and there will be more opportunities to learn together in small groups.

Early learning site schools will also offer programs (where viable), before and after school hours, delivered by early childhood educators. You may choose to enroll your four and five year old children from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be a reasonable fee, comparable to existing daycare fee structures, for the Before and After School Programs and subsidies may be available for some families based on financial need.

Registration for the Early Learning Program will occur during February Kindergarten Registration month at your child's school.

Further questions and answers that you may have regarding full-day learning are attached. You may also wish to visit our website at [www.dsbni.org](http://www.dsbni.org) or contact the school.

Sincerely,

J. M. Roberto

Principal