



## Calling All Three Year Olds Kindergarten Registration

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is *Calling All Three Year Olds (CATYO)* Kindergarten Registration?

*Calling All Three Year Olds* Kindergarten Registration\* held in November of each year is designed so that all children can enter school at their optimal level of development. It includes:

- registration for Junior or Senior Kindergarten
- identification of potential developmental delays through Nipissing screening by a trained screener
- promotion of early child development programs and services in Huron and Perth Counties.

#### Who should attend *CATYO* Kindergarten Registration?

All children three years old by December 31, 2008 (born in 2005) are eligible for Junior Kindergarten and all children four years old by December 31, 2008 (born in 2004) are eligible for Senior Kindergarten and their parents should attend.

#### When can parents register their child for school?

Registration for Junior and Senior Kindergarten for the 2009- 2010 school year will be held November 3 - 28, 2008 at schools in Huron and Perth counties. Parents can call their local school after October 1, 2008 for the date and time of registration. Please encourage **all** parents to attend the registration being held in their home school in November.

#### Why should parents register their child for school in November - nine months before the start of school next September?

Early registration allows parents to:

- introduce their child to the school they will be attending
- discuss any concerns or apprehensions they may have about their child starting school
- learn more about their child's development through completing a Nipissing screen with a screener
- have adequate time to help their child learn age-appropriate activities and to practice skills and routines to get ready for school
- have adequate time to access early child development programs and services if there are any areas of concern.

#### What can parents expect at *CATYO* Kindergarten Registration?

Parents should plan to arrive at the school at the time given by the School Secretary and to set aside up to 1½ hours for registration. At *CATYO* Kindergarten Registration parents can:

- meet the school principal, secretary, and a kindergarten teacher
- register their child for Junior or Senior Kindergarten
- complete a developmental profile of their child with a screener using the Nipissing screen
- observe their child doing age-appropriate activities with teachers and/or community early childhood educators
- obtain information and resources about child development, getting ready for school and local early child development programs and services
- meet other parents whose children will also be attending kindergarten

#### What is the Nipissing District Developmental Screen (also called the Nipissing or Nipissing Screen)?

The Nipissing is a standardized developmental screening tool that gives an overview (snapshot) of a child's development on the day of screening. Each age-specific screen is a checklist of developmental skills observed in most children of a certain age. There is a take-home section of the Nipissing screen which gives parents (or other caregivers) activities that they can do with their child to enhance development.

Further information about the Nipissing is available at [www.ndds.ca](http://www.ndds.ca).

## What are the benefits of developmental screening prior to school entry?

Parents can:

- Learn about their child's development and recognize their child's skills and abilities.
- Identify areas of concern about their child's development early enough to seek out appropriate early child development programs and services before school starts.
- Learn age-appropriate activities to support their child's development allowing the child time to learn and practice skills that they may not yet be doing.

\*\* Although each child has his /her own individual growth and development timetable, all children go through the same developmental stages.

## Does my child have to be screened at registration to be able to go to school?

Completing the Nipissing is voluntary and not compulsory for school entry. However, a Nipissing screen can tell parents about their child's development and should there be any concerns, these areas can be addressed before their child starts school in September.

## Should children with special needs come to CATYO Kindergarten Registration?

Many children with special needs have been receiving preschool support services and programs and have already started entry-to-school planning including registration with school officials. Parents of children with special needs often want to attend and are welcome to participate in the activities of CATYO Kindergarten Registration.

Should parents/ guardians of children with special needs not have initiated the school entry process for their child they should contact the school boards as follows:

- **For AMDSB:** parents/guardians must contact the Superintendent of Education with responsibility for special education to ensure that supports and services are in place for children prior to the start of school. This is in addition to any contact with a school principal and applies to all children with special needs regardless of any existing contact with other supports and services.
- **For HPCDSB:** parents/guardians should contact the principal of the local school to initiate the entry-to-school process.

## What if parents call to register their child after the November registration?

Parents should:

- Pick up a Kindergarten Registration Information package from the School Secretary and return the completed forms /information to the school.
- Call the numbers as listed below and make an appointment to have a Nipissing Developmental Screen completed.

\* \* Appointments for the Nipissing screens are available only after all the November registrations have been completed.

**In Huron**, parents can call 519-482-8505 ext. 200 or 1-888-371-5718 ext. 200 for an appointment with a Resource Consultant.

**In Perth**, parents can call the nearest Ontario Early Years Centre for an appointment with an Early Years Coordinator or Resource Consultant.

Debbie Miller at 519-291-6626 - North Perth (Listowel area)

Pam Shewan at 519-348-8618 - West Perth (Mitchell area)

Joanna Grogan at 519-273-9082 - Stratford (and area)

\* CATYO Kindergarten Registration is collaboratively planned, implemented and resourced by the partner agencies represented on the Huron Perth Healthy Babies Healthy Children Early Identification committee.

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