



## Programming for Preschoolers & Their Parents | December–March 2023–24

204.669.4043 • [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca) • Supported by Child and Youth Services, Department of Families

Kinder Links @ Home is FREE programming for families with young children living in the River East Transcona community. Kinder Links @ Home features exciting ways to enjoy literacy and numeracy activities from the comfort and safety of your home. Get creative, playful, and passionate about early learning with our FREE parent-child programming!

Sign up for as many VIRTUAL programs and special events as your schedule allows. To ensure the best virtual experience, we encourage parents and children to participate in these program activities together. You'll enjoy this quality time learning, laughing, and making memories as a family. Get comfortable, cuddle up, and enjoy interesting literacy and numeracy activities with your Kinder Links facilitators.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### VIRTUAL Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Lights

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

Twinkling lights and festive glitter make this season pop with so much colour! Together, we'll spread holiday cheer as we sing and read about green trees, silver bells, red reindeer noses, and colourful candy treats. Get ready for a fun, colour-themed scavenger hunt around your home.

**Tuesday, Dec. 5**  
6–6:45 p.m.

#### VIRTUAL Holly Jolly Fun

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

Participants are sure to have a jolly good time playing holiday bingo, guessing "what's in the stocking," and getting active with a scavenger hunt and other energetic games.

**Wednesday, Dec. 13**  
10–10:45 a.m.

#### VIRTUAL Countdown in Santa's Workshop

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

The countdown has started in Santa's busy workshop! In this holiday-themed math extravaganza, we'll sing, read, dance, and play. Get ready for holiday "I Spy," festive patterns and shapes, and lots of counting fun as we help load Santa's sack of presents.

**Monday, Dec. 18**  
10–10:45 a.m.

#### VIRTUAL Sleighbells Storytime

Best enjoyed by children ages 1 to 5 years

Cozy up and experience wonderful holiday books and illustrations featuring some of your favourite storybook characters. Participants will enjoy colourful felt-board activities and a few special songs and rhymes.

**Tuesday, Dec. 19**  
10–10:45 a.m.



#### VIRTUAL All Aboard the Friend Ship

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

Join the crew as we set sail on an interesting voyage filled with songs, books, puppets, and games. On the "Friend Ship," participants will have fun learning about being a good friend, taking turns, understanding and managing their emotions, and developing problem-solving skills.

**Mondays, Jan. 22–March 11**  
10–10:30 a.m.  
Class cancelled Feb. 19

## Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

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Scroll down to *What it means to be a trustee* to watch an informative video



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### VIRTUAL Pirate, Princess & Superhero Playdate

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

Yo ho ho! Join us for a royally wonderful class filled with songs, stories, counting games, and pirate- and princess-themed activities. Together, we will play like pirates, waltz like princesses, and swing into action like brave superheroes. Participants are encouraged to dress up for this epic adventure!

**Tuesdays, Jan. 23–March 12**  
10–10:30 a.m.

### VIRTUAL Hooray for Heroes & Helpers

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

Together, we will learn about special community helpers who live in, work in, and positively contribute to our neighbourhoods. Through songs, books, and educational games, we will discover the everyday heroes and helpers, like police officers, doctors, dentists, librarians, and others, who make our streets safer and our lives richer.

**Wednesdays, Jan. 24–March 13**  
10–10:30 a.m.

*Class cancelled Feb. 14*

### VIRTUAL Penguin Pals & Winter Friends

Best enjoyed by children ages 18 months to 5 years

The more it snows in winter, the happier these cute animal friends will be! This “cool” class features stories, games, and songs about penguins, polar bears, snowy owls, and seals, to name just a few. Together, we’ll talk about how these animals move, explore, and play on icebergs and snowy arctic tundra.

**Thursdays, Jan. 25–March 14**  
10–10:30 a.m.

### VIRTUAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Celebrate your child’s birthday with a special greeting from the Kinder Links team! In this 20-minute virtual session, a Kinder Links facilitator will sing the Happy Birthday Song to your child, share a book, and play

an educational game to help celebrate their big day. Appointments are available mornings, afternoons, and early evenings.

VIRTUAL Birthday Greetings appointments are available for children six years and under, as availability permits, and must be booked in advance. Contact Kinder Links at [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca) or 204.669.4043.

**Registration begins immediately by completing the [Online Form](#), emailing us at [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca), or leaving a message at 204.669.4043. When registering, please provide the following information:**

- Parent/caregiver name
- Names and ages of all children to attend the program
- Home/cellphone number
- Home address
- Email address where you wish to be contacted
- Program(s) you wish to register for (name of program, date, and time)

### KINDER LINKS PEN PALS

Introduce your child—ages three to five—to the joys of reading and writing through RETSD’s Kinder Links Pen Pals program. Our team of Kinder Links facilitators is looking forward to connecting with preschool families this year. As a Kinder Links Pen Pal, your child will receive a special package in the mail featuring a short letter, notes, songs or rhymes, a joke, stickers, and a seasonal activity to try. The best part of being a pen pal is writing back! We can hardly wait to start receiving letters or drawings from your child(ren). For every letter sent to the Kinder Links office, we’ll reply with a special package filled with fun activities for your child. This is an excellent way to get your child excited about literacy while having fun practising their printing, drawing, and numeracy skills. Submissions can be mailed to:

Kelly Martino  
Kinder Links Office  
Maple Leaf School  
251 McIvor Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R2G 0Z7

### FREE BABY GIFT FOR NEW PARENTS

Did you just have a baby? River East Transcona School Division and the Early Childhood Matters Parent Child Coalitions in River East and Transcona would like to help you celebrate this wonderful event. We have a book, *I Love It When You*, which we’d love to give to you to keep and enjoy. To receive your FREE book, contact us at [kmartino@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kmartino@retsd.mb.ca) or 204.669.4043. Please leave us your mailing address, child’s name, and date of birth.

### KINDER LINKS ADVISORY GROUP

Are you interested in sharing your ideas to help shape Kinder Links parent-child programming? We are recruiting new members for our Kinder Links Advisory Group, which meets virtually to discuss and provide feedback on our free early learning programs. Contact Kinder Links at [kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kinderlinks@retsd.mb.ca) or 204.669.4043 for more information.

### THE EARLY LEARNING TEAM

We are pleased to provide early learning and family support to families living in River East Transcona. Feel free to contact us if you have questions about our preschool initiatives.

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