



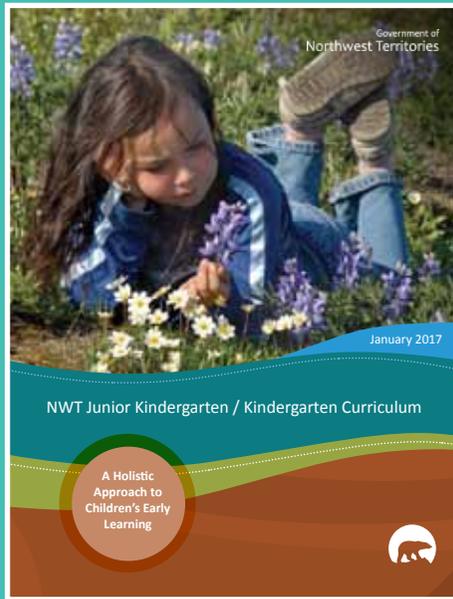
Junior Kindergarten | Kindergarten

Curriculum

Government of
Northwest Territories







The NWT JK/K Curriculum focuses on children learning about the world at a pace that best suits their needs. It recognizes families and past experiences as the child's first teachers. Children learn naturally through play. In JK/K, they will develop social skills, think critically, manage their emotions, begin to self-regulate, solve problems, make decisions, and have opportunities to learn about things they find interesting. The eleven competencies are based on early childhood development, cultural programming, and honour children's identity, language, and culture.

1. Sense of Identity

In JK/K children learn more about who they are and who they want to become. They discover the things that interest them. As they play and explore with other children, they begin to understand their role as a member of their family, the class, their culture, and community.

How can you help your child develop a positive sense of identity?

- Bond with your child to feel loved and safe.
- Encourage your child to try new activities and know that it is okay to make mistakes.
- Encourage your child to discover and develop gifts.

2. Healthy Living

Daily activities in JK/K will encourage healthy physical and emotional habits. Children will have many opportunities to be active both inside and outside the school where they will learn to play safely and respect the safety of others. Traditional Aboriginal ways of being healthy will be reinforced and encouraged by the teacher and the school.

How can you help your child live a healthy life style?

- Provide nutritional food.
- Encourage active play inside and outside.
- Model a positive attitude towards exercise and good personal hygiene habits.
- Visit the doctor and dentist for regular checkups. Any health problems such as hearing or vision should be addressed as early as possible.
- Limit the amount of screen time.



3. Relationship with the Land

In JK/K, children start to appreciate the gifts they receive from the land and discover ways to care for and protect their environment. Children will learn to understand and value what is special about the land in their area through activities which will often be led by experienced Indigenous teachers.

How can you help your child develop a relationship with the land?

- Take your child out on the land, parks, and the natural environment as often as possible.
- Allow your child to explore and enjoy the freedom of spending time with nature.
- Help your child discover the beauty that nature provides and show respect for the environment.
- Share traditional activities on the land together and encourage family members to tell your child stories about life in the past.

4. Citizenship

JK/K is an inclusive environment where every child is appreciated and respected for who they are as individuals. In that way, the class becomes a small community where everyone considers the feelings and needs of the rest of the group. Every child will learn to accept responsibilities by helping others so that the classroom will be a peaceful and positive place to play and learn.

How can you help your child become a responsible citizen?

- Be a positive role model for your child.
- Encourage your child to respect the feelings, rights and property of others.
- Give your child small tasks that involve helping someone, perhaps a younger sibling or grandparent.





5. Self-Regulation: Calm, Focused, and Alert

In JK/K, children will begin to learn about themselves as learners as they identify their own needs and the needs of others. With help from the teacher, children will be supported to solve problems peacefully by talking about their feelings and managing frustration and conflict. Traditional Dene and Inuit values will help the children to be calm, focused and alert.

How can you help your child to regulate energy?

- Create a peaceful, supportive, and positive environment for all family members.
- Model peaceful problem solving by talking and negotiating solutions.
- Encourage your child to take turns, share with other children, and think about their feelings.
- Encourage your child to accept some basic rules and limits within the family.

6. Conversation and Communication

A big part of children's learning depends on their ability to communicate with others. In JK/K they are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions, ask questions, and tell others about what they already know and what they are learning. They also need to be good listeners so they can learn from others.

How can you help your child with their conversation and communication?

- Talk, sing, tell stories, and read to your child.
- Listen and respond when your child speaks to you.
- Encourage your child to ask questions. Give answers or help find answers together.
- If you have any concerns about your child's speech and language development, get the opinion of a health professional.

7. Collaboration and Teamwork

There are many opportunities in JK/K to play and work together with other children to achieve common goals. As part of a group, they will begin to understand that each child has different talents, strengths, and interests, and that everyone has something positive to offer.

How can you help your child with collaboration and teamwork?

- Play with your child.
- Encourage different types of play including active, quiet, and imaginative play involving real objects, toys, books, writing, and drawing materials.

8. Creativity and Innovation

Children love to explore and create independently and with others. In JK/K, children will have creative opportunities daily using sounds, words, images, movement, and technologies through many different dramatic, visual, and musical art forms, including northern and Aboriginal artists.

How can you help your child be creative and innovative?

- Create a play area at home with a variety of materials that encourage creative play such as paper, crayons, markers, musical instruments, dress up clothes, and materials from nature.
- Participate in creative activities that your family enjoys such as sewing, beading, carving, creating or listening to music, dancing, and woodworking.





9. Problem-Solving and Decision-Making

Curiosity leads to new experiences that build on what children already know. As children ask questions, plan, predict, observe, and gather information, they communicate, share, and record findings in their own way to navigate their world.

How can you help your child solve problems and make decisions?

- Encourage problem-solving and decision-making.
- Talk about little problems and possible solutions.
- Ask your child what they think and let them make suggestions.

10. Applied Literacies: Reading and Writing

Children in JK/K love to listen to stories, talk about the pictures, predict what will happen next, and retell the story. Stories help children realize that print is made up of words, structure, and meaning. They love to join in rhythm, rhyme, and repetition.

How can you prepare your child for reading and writing?

- Cuddle with your child and read together often.
- Listen to your child talk about pictures in books, ask questions, predict what might happen next, make personal connections, and retell the story.
- Borrow books from the library.
- Read different types of books, including Indigenous topics and authors, fiction, non-fiction, rhyming, and alphabet.
- Reread your child's favourite books.
- Encourage your child to scribble and draw ideas.

11. Applied Literacies:

Math

Numbers are found in every part of a child's world. With a variety of objects, children in JK/K will learn to recognize numbers, count, identify sequences, finish patterns, compare shapes, and measure.

How can you prepare your child for math literacy?

- Count different objects in the environment.
- Group and pattern items in your home.
- Compare the size, shape, and quantity of items.



For more information about the
NWT JK/K Curriculum, contact the
JK Hotline at

1-844-698-5655

or contact a school's principal in your
community.

Wheels
go
and round,
and round,
wheels on the bus go
and round,
rough the town.
people on the bus go
and down,
and down,
and down,
people on the bus go
and down,
rough the town.





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