

The Welcome to Kindergarten program (WTK) offers resources and strategies for families in support of children and early learning. Our school will be hosting our WTK Family Orientation session on

May 16, 2017, from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm in our school gym.

[Learning to Play and Playing to Learn: Getting Ready for School](http://www.beststart.org/resources/hlthy_chld_dev/pdf/school_readiness_english_fnl.pdf) is a wonderful booklet for families in helping their child prepare for a successful transition to kindergarten.

**We look forward to seeing you on May 16, 2017, from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm!**

*Talk Read Sing Play every day!*



Medical science has revealed how critically important early experiences are in shaping children’s development, their subsequent school success and their future lifelong success. Harvard’s Centre on the Developing Child summarizes the research in [The Science of Early Childhood Development](http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-the-science-of-early-childhood-development/).

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Welcome to Kindergarten (WTK) has partnered with Chirp Magazine to provide a special WTK Chirp edition in our WTK bag of family resources this year. Chirp has also partnered with CBC to provide a series of [Online Chirp Episodes](http://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/watch/chirp) that are very appropriate for children’s viewing.

These online episodes are wonderful for families to view together with their children. They also provide wonderful opportunities for follow up with fun art, dress-up or simple science related activities. This type of family engagement that creates play-based activity and conversation is at the root of children’s healthy, optimal growth and development.

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Welcome to Kindergarten (WTK) programming provides a wonderful opportunity for families to engage with their new school and celebrate active play based learning that is the foundation for children’s healthy, optimal growth and development.

That initial WTK family and school engagement starts a relationship that needs to be nurtured and grow in supporting children throughout their school experience. Dr. Michelann Parr, from Nipissing University’s Schulich School of Education, shares anecdotes, experiences, and practices related to family and school engagement in her most informative blog: [“engaging families, engaging schools”.](http://familyengagement.nipissingu.ca/)

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