Pathway
to Stewardship & Kinship

Pathway Links to the Ontario Curriculum

Full-Day Early Learning - Kindergarten

- The three goals outlined in Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow are organized around the themes of teaching and learning, student engagement and community connections, and environmental leadership. The first goal is to promote learning about environmental issues and solutions. The second is to engage students in practicing and promoting environmental stewardship, both in the school and in the community. The third stresses the importance of providing leadership by implementing and promoting responsible environmental practices throughout the education system so that staff, parents, community members, and students become dedicated to living more sustainably.

- The Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten program offers many opportunities for accomplishing these goals. The learning environments for early learning include the schoolyard, fields and trails in the vicinity of the school, and various other outdoor venues. Teaching children to appreciate and respect the environment is an integral part of being active in these spaces. Appreciating the value of fresh air and outdoor spaces, understanding the environmental benefits of healthy practices such as active transportation (walking, biking) and the environmental implications of various food choices, being aware of the impact of using trails, and understanding the health risks associated with environmental factors such as sun exposure and air pollution are all components of environmental education that can be integrated with learning in Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten programs. To facilitate these connections, Early Learning–Kindergarten teams are encouraged to take children out of the classroom and into the world beyond the school to help them observe, explore, and appreciate nature.

- Taking field trips to interesting places in the community, inviting community experts to the classroom, and having community members bring in artifacts from the community related to topics of immediate interest to the children are examples of activities that promote learning and bring the local environment into the daily activities of young children.

- Play is a vehicle for learning and lies at the core of innovation and creativity. It provides opportunities for learning in a context in which children are at their most receptive.

- Participate in environmentally friendly activities in the classroom and the schoolyard (e.g., plant and tend to plants; use local products for snack time)

- The EL–K team supports the children's environmental thinking by asking children to consider the impact on the environment when choosing tools, equipment, and material for their designs.