



Government of Yukon

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 April 16, 2010

Stepping into Kindergarten to help children start school

WHITEHORSE – Children starting kindergarten this fall will receive support from the Department of Education with a new Stepping into Kindergarten initiative.

"Transitioning into kindergarten is a major milestone in a child's life," Education Minister Patrick Rouble said. "When new students register for kindergarten, we want to welcome them to a fun learning environment and create a positive relationship for children starting school."

All schools with kindergarten programs will receive additional support to facilitate a welcoming orientation session. Those sessions will include some important learning activities for the parents and children. Each child will take home a learning goodie bag containing a story book, crayons, scissors and notepad.

Many schools have a long history of successfully hosting fall orientation sessions and the Department of Education recognizes the important role of kindergarten teachers in facilitating these sessions.

The Stepping into Kindergarten initiative provides financial support to provide each school with welcoming packages and a minimum of \$150 to provide refreshments and other items to make the orientation festive. Financial support will also include covering the cost of a substitute teacher when the kindergarten teacher is with the new students and their parents during the orientation. Approximately \$10,000 is budgeted to cover the total cost of activities and materials. Additional costs will be incurred for the substitute teachers.

"Education is about building relationships to promote learning and this is one positive way to start the process for the child and the parent," Rouble said.

Kindergarten registration for the 2010-11 school year is underway until April 26. For more information about kindergarten registration, go to www.education.gov.yk.ca.

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Contact:

Emily Younker
 Cabinet Communications
 867-633-7961
emily.younker@gov.yk.ca

Yumimi Pang
 Communications, Education
 867-456-6789
yumimi.pang@gov.yk.ca

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