

## Private Kindergarten ...What's the difference?



***Nursery School and Kindergarten are the formative years of your child's life. This is when your child will develop attitudes and behaviours related to school and learning that will remain with them forever.***

***Now is the time to provide the very best for your child***

## Private Kindergarten ...What's the Difference?

The bottom line is that a low student to teacher ratio means personalized attention, and at a time when developmental gaps between children of the same age will never be greater in your child's academic career, personalized attention is crucial.

The individualized support provides for a relaxed, unhurried experience, with greater opportunity for screening and assessment of children, to detect and deal with potential learning problems, and more occasions for good quality interaction between adults and students. It means the children who struggle will get the help they need, and the children who need enrichment, will get the challenges and extra stimulation they need.

At no other point in your child's schooling, will individualized learning be more important.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can my child attend a public school AND a private Kindergarten?**

Absolutely, and many of our Kindergarteners do! For example, if your child attends a public school program in the mornings, then he/she would attend Colwell in the afternoons. We are able to provide the enrichment and support that public schools cannot.

[Ask about our transportation services!!](#)

### **Does Colwell deliver the Ontario Kindergarten Curriculum?**

Yes. As a matter of fact, due to our low student to teacher ratio, we are typically able to deliver the material at a higher level than public schools. Our goal is to have your child already working at a grade 1 level before he/she gets there.

### **Is Kindergarten offered on a 2, 3, and 5-day basis?**

Yes. Our Kindergarten program is offered as a half-day, extended-half-day, or full-day program, and is available on a 2, 3, or 5-day per week basis.

## How Does Full-Day Learning Fit In?

The introduction of full-day learning by the McGuinty government will only exaggerate the quality gap between the public system and a private education. Classrooms are expected to bubble over to a maximum of 30 students, and are proposed to feature one Kindergarten teacher and one Early Childhood Educator (ECE).

At a 15:1 student to teacher ratio, that is nearly double the 8:1 ratio that the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) has deemed as essential to maintaining a level of safety in Ontario daycare and childcare centres for 4 and 5 year olds. Consider that Ontario curriculum documents see today's Kindergarteners tackling more complex concepts than ever before, and it becomes evident that McGuinty's plan has some holes to fill.



Class sizes are to be capped at 30 students

According to the CBC, 35,000 students, or roughly 16% of all eligible Ontario Kindergarten students, will begin full-day learning in September of 2010, and will be gradually rolled out until 2015. The price tag for full-day learning is expected to balloon to a whopping \$1.5 billion per year. That's approximately \$6850 per student per year for the extra half-day of school. Is it logical then, to assume that we, the taxpayers, are already paying about \$6850 per year for the half-day of Junior and Senior Kindergarten our public school system currently provides? If so, then full-day tuition for full-day learning will tip the scales at nearly \$14,000/year per student (that's over twice as much as Colwell's full-day Kindergarten tuition, which currently features a 6:1 ratio).

We appreciate the gesture McGuinty, but I'm not sure that Ontarians are willing to bet their healthcare dollars on it.

Chris Anthony, Principal  
Colwell Nursery School and Kindergarten



*"Thank you for helping to make Hayden's first nursery school experience a great one!"*

*Colwell Parent.*

*"Colwell is a special place filled with extraordinary teachers, and we are grateful for the experience Dylan and Cole have had in it's wonderful environment.*

*Thank you!"*

*Colwell Parent.*

*"Kendra was my first child to experience Colwell's second-to-none education over 8 years ago. The reinforcement of the staff provided Kendra with careful guidance, appropriate redirection, and a strong feeling of respect for others. Currently 11 years old, she has gone on to accomplish wonderful things as a direct result of the confidence building skills that Colwell offered, and still offers, our young ones."*

*Colwell Parent*