

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Early Years, K-4
Information for Parents



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This pamphlet lists the themes and concepts related to **education for sustainable development** (ESD) that are covered in Kindergarten to Grade 4, offering parents the information they need to take an active role in their children's learning.

Instilling sustainable values in students requires a coordinated effort. With support from the school and the community, parents can help their children recognize how sustainable development relates to their own and others' lives. ESD provides the tools for families to work together at improving their daily practices so they can better contribute to a sustainable future.

In Kindergarten to Grade 4, students focus on two themes:

- **Respect and concern for other people in the local community and in other places in the world.**
- **Concern for all of the living things in our environment. Students learn that human survival is dependent on the environment.**

The ESD themes are integrated or built into each subject in every grade. However, the subjects where ESD has more emphasis are social studies, science and physical education/health education. Math and English language arts develop skills that support learning about the ESD themes. Music, art and drama allow students to express the ESD themes.

ESD concepts addressed in each grade are described below.

Kindergarten Students:

- **Identify ways in which humans and animals use trees**
- **Learn to contribute to groups and communities**
- **Recognize that people all over the world have the same basic needs**
- **Appreciate the beauty and importance of the natural environment, and learn how it influences their daily lives**
- **Respect the natural environment while participating in physical activity**

Grade 1 Students:

- **Reduce/reuse/recycle classroom materials**
- **Identify the characteristics and needs of living things**
- **Respect stories, traditions and celebrations of others**
- **Appreciate the beauty and benefits that the natural environment brings to their lives**
- **Recognize that people all over the world depend on their environment for their survival**
- **Distinguish their needs from wants and consider the needs of people elsewhere in the world**





Grade 2 Students:

- Understand the importance of clean air and water for humans, plants and animals
- Identify substances that pollute air and water and explore ways of reducing pollution to maintain a healthy and clean environment
- Record their personal use of water and identify ways to reduce usage
- Explain the importance of conserving or restoring natural resources
- Learn to appreciate that their life is enhanced by the work and products of other Canadian communities
- Value Canada's global connections



Grade 3 Students:

- Give examples of the responsibilities and rights of Canadian citizens
- Identify ways of resolving conflict and are willing to contribute to groups and communities
- Recognize that people around the world have basic human rights
- Appreciate the diversity of the global environment
- Respect plants as living things, explain how to replenish plants that are used and explain the consequences if plants are not replenished
- Explain the characteristics of different soils and ways to return organic matter to the soil

Grade 4 Students:

- Predict how the removal of a plant or animal can change a habitat and affect the rest of the community
- Describe how to help conserve plant and animal populations and their habitats
- Give examples of Aboriginal peoples' traditional relationship with the land
- Identify natural phenomena and human activities that cause significant changes in the landscape
- Identify ways in which governments help people meet their needs
- Identify issues related to environmental stewardship and sustainability in Manitoba



A K-4 classroom poster has been developed to assist students in learning more about sustainable living. The following statements are presented on the poster:

The Earth is Our Home.

All things on Earth are Connected.

We need to take care
of the Earth.

We will work together
for a better future.

We will live together in Peace.

For more information about sustainable development, visit:
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/index.html

For details about what students learn in each grade in each
subject area, visit:
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/parents/index.html

