

## Questions about Preschool Education

### Should my expectations for a K child be subordinate to the expectations of the cycle 1 teacher

What should your expectations be for a Kindergarten child at the end of a school year? Should they be the same as those of any other K teacher or should they be subordinate to the expectations of the cycle 1 teacher(s) in your school

Firstly, the expectations for a Kindergarten child at the end of the school year are the same for all kindergarten children in the province of Quebec. They are the ones outlined in the Preschool Education Program.

These expectations, related to the development of the competencies, are well described as "Outcomes at the end of Preschool education". You will find these outcomes attached to each competency in the program. The "Outcomes at the end of Preschool education" are benchmarks for what may be expected of students at the end of the school year for kindergarten.

The Framework on Evaluation of Learning is a document that helps teachers understand and reflect on the evaluation process. During the school year, you evaluate the progress of the child in the development of the preschool competencies. At the end of the year, you need to evaluate in light of the outcomes for the competencies of the Education Program.

Grade one teachers have to be made aware of the Kindergarten Program, the competencies the children are developing and the outcomes at the end of the year. It should be noted, however, that some schools, and teachers or programs (ex. International program, Montessori, etc.), have expectations that are often different from those of the Québec Education Program. A child can then find himself with learning difficulties according to the expectations of the school's or the teacher's "program" but, in fact, that same child is in a success situation according to the QEP outcomes.

I strongly believe that we need to sit down with our Cycle 1 colleagues and have a discussion about our Preschool Education Program. We even have tools to help us do this, "**The Kindergarten**" **Video Series** in French and in English, presenting the preschool program, addressing important issues like the role of play in the learning process of a 5 years old child, emergent literacy and mathematics science and technology, as they are implemented in the K program, etc. These videos come with an animation guide that can be use by teachers with colleagues or with parents. I strongly recommend them.

As for the mandate of a teacher, kindergarten or others, it can be found in the Education Act under Rights and Obligations. The mandate of the Preschool Education Program can be found on page 52 of the Quebec Educational Program. It states:

#### **Preschool education has a threefold mandate:**

- 1- to serve as a rite of passage that gives children a liking for school;
- 2- to foster children's overall development by motivating them to exploit their full potential;

3- to lay the social and cognitive groundwork that will prepare children for their future schooling and enable them to continue to learn throughout their lives.

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