

Halton Kindergarten Parent Survey 2023 Highlights

The Kindergarten Parent Survey (KPS) is completed every three years and asks Halton families of children in kindergarten about their experiences. In this 7th cycle, 2,497 parents participated, a response rate of 43%. Since 2003, 17,214 families have participated in the survey.

Organized under the [Halton 7](#) (seven evidence-based conditions of well-being needed for children, families, and the community to thrive), the KPS allows us to examine some important child outcomes that are not measured in the [Early Development Instrument](#).



Children are Healthy

Good health is a prerequisite for positive outcomes for children. Physical activity and healthy eating are included in this result.

91% ate breakfast daily

61% of kindergarten children were physically active for 60 minutes daily

73% ate fruits and vegetables 3 or more times a day



Children are Learning

Learning is one of the cornerstones for success in life. Preschool learning opportunities and children's attitudes towards learning are included in this result.

95% of parents of kindergarten children report that their child is excited about learning

47% attended a music/arts/dance program in the past 12 months

91% attended a recreational program in the past 12 months

41% attended a religious, cultural or ethnic based program in the past 12 months

79% visited a library in the past 12 months

25% attended a children's program in the past 12 months



Children are Positively Connected

All children need positive connections to their parents/caregivers, peers, school and community. Peer connections are included in this result.

97% parents of kindergarten children reported that their child gets along with others their own age

95% of parents of kindergarten children reported that their child enjoys going to school



Children are Safe

Safe environments benefit children by providing a sense of personal security, allowing them to take maximum advantage of learning, playing and making new friendships. Serious injury and perceptions of safety are included in this result.

80% of parents of kindergarten children report that their child feels safe at school

10% of kindergarten children were seriously injured in the past 12 months



Families are Strong and Stable

Strong and stable family environments provide a solid foundation and stimulating, interactive experiences to nurture a child's positive development. Regular family meals, and parenting capacity and support are reported in this result.

74% of families had regular family meals

44% of parents of kindergarten children felt pressured for time at least 5 days a week

68% of parents of kindergarten children took time out to care for their own health and wellbeing

20% of parents of kindergarten children experienced high levels of parental stress



Schools are Connected to the Community

Children spend a great deal of their time learning in schools. How schools connect to their communities are important.

98% reported their child's school is a friendly and welcoming place



Neighbourhoods are Where We Live, Work, & Play

Children thrive in neighbourhoods that are safe and connected. Neighbourhood safety and relationships are reported in this result.

97% of parents of kindergarten children felt that their neighbourhood is a safe place to bring up children

48% of parents of kindergarten children reported positive neighbourhood cohesion

85% reported people in their neighbourhood help each other

Limitations of the Data

The 2023 KPS had a response rate of 43% of kindergarten families, and achieved good geographical coverage of Halton municipalities. Despite these strengths, caution should be used when interpreting the data. Several types of response bias have been identified related to self-report surveys. Use caution when interpreting the meaning of findings because some data may not represent all children in Halton.

When interpreting and applying the data, it is a best practice to supplement your knowledge with information and data from multiple sources, such as qualitative data, other survey findings and anecdotal and professional experience.

Explanatory Notes

For more information about the KPS, please [click here](#) to access the 2023 version of the survey. Additional data, including data for previous cycles of the KPS, can be accessed on the [OKN data portal](#). Please note that while there is overlap in indicators reported in the infographic (above) and the OKN data portal, these two formats also contain several unique indicators. If you would like any further information about the KPS indicators, please contact Rebecca Abavi, OKN Knowledge Broker, at rebecca@ourkidsnetwork.ca. Additionally, you may learn more about the KPS indicators in the [Data Portal Data Dictionary](#).

Additional explanatory notes are provided below on indicators from the 2023 KPS infographic. These notes provide additional context on indicators under the following conditions:

- The original survey question contained different wording or examples; or
- The indicator is a composite (aggregates responses from more than one survey item).

KPS Indicator	Description
% attended a children's program in the past 12 months	Examples include drop-in programs, moms and tots, and EarlyON Child and Family Centre programs
% attended a religious, cultural or ethnic based program in the past 12 months	Examples include faith programs and language classes
% attended a music/arts/dance program in the past 12 months	Examples include music lessons, ballet, art classes
% attended a recreational program in the past 12 months	Examples include sports, swimming, skating
% of kindergarten children seriously injured in the past 12 months	Refers to injuries serious enough to require medical attention by a doctor, nurse or dentist (such as a broken bone, bad cut or burn, head injury, etc.)
% of families who had regular family meals	Refers to eating a meal together as a family daily
% of parents of kindergarten children who experienced high levels of parental stress	Refers to parents who reported that they were 'very stressed' or 'extremely stressed' in the past two weeks. Other response options included 'not at all stressed,' 'slightly stressed,' and 'moderately stressed.'
% of parents of kindergarten children who report positive neighbourhood cohesion	This is a composite measure consisting of six survey items: -People in the neighbourhood get together to discuss community problems. -There are adults in the neighbourhood my child(ren) can look up to. -People in my neighbourhood help each other. -I can count on my neighbours to watch that children are safe and out of trouble. -I feel my neighbourhood is a safe place to bring up children. -When we are away, my neighbours look out for possible trouble. Each question has response options: 'strongly disagree,' 'disagree,' 'agree' or 'strongly agree,' rated from 1 to 4. An average of 3 or more is classified as positive neighbourhood cohesion.