



**School's Cool** is a short, life-changing program that has a tremendous impact on school readiness for children entering kindergarten. Skills that are critical to success in kindergarten -- language, math, psychological, self-help and social skills **increase, on average, by over 52 weeks during this six-week program!** And research is showing that those gains are **sustainable in higher grades, resulting in higher EDI and grade 3 testing scores!**

**School's Cool:**

- Is a leader in school readiness!
- Has a positive impact on children – increasing enthusiasm and excitement for school
- Demonstrates that measurable positive impact to parents and funders
- Provides an evidence-based curriculum – in the summer, or year-round
- Engages parents and helps them see their critical role in their children's education

*We envision a world where every child has a level playing field starting school and is on a pathway for school success. School's Cool is part of the solution!*

**The School's Cool Advantage**

**Results !**

**School's Cool produces measurable results.** In 2017 39 children attended School's Cool. 34 were evaluated (pre and post testing done externally):

Developmental Skill	Increase in Weeks
Social Skills	68
Psychological Skills	68
Language	71
Self Help	86
Math/Cognitive	53
<b>Overall</b>	<b>69</b>



*"They're coming out more confident, the skills are there and it's showing up in our student achievement results."*

Superintendent of Education

## Universal and Targeted Effectiveness

Created to level the playing field for children who were not ready for the challenges of kindergarten, the **School's Cool program works with all children.**

Organizations have used the program with English learners, with Aboriginal children and with children who have a wide variety of exceptionalities and behavioral issues. The differentiated curriculum and focus on strengths allow any child to be successful.



*"[School's Cool] The program is culturally sensitive to immigrant and other ethnic minority children, ensuring that all children strengthen their developmental skills."*  
Researcher & Associate Professor

## A Focus on Outcomes

**The curriculum is designed to explicitly link play experiences with observable learning outcomes** that are relevant to skills needed for a solid foundation for kindergarten. The 122 School's Cool activities are sequenced, purposeful, and are adaptable for varying ages and developmental levels.

The program wraps around each child, rather than expecting all children to attain the same bench-mark. Activities, whether led by the instructor or child; done as part of circle, transitions, healthy practices or other routines, are done with the objective of increasing specific skills and abilities. Each activity has its own specified learning outcome attached to it, and provides the Instructor with a clear roadmap as to "next steps."



*"Each activity in the [School's Cool] curriculum is designed to be inclusive for all children. So the children are able to be successful and feel positive about what they are producing."*

Instructor

## Play-based Learning

Children learn best through play - **School's Cool offers children activities that are both developmentally appropriate for 3 to 5 year olds, and fun to do.** Also community visitors and visits are an integral part of the curriculum which involves experiential learning.



*"They don't realize they are learning because they are having fun."*

Parent

## Flexibility in Implementation

The School's Cool curriculum is 72 hours in length and is divided into 24-3 hour sessions. **The program can easily fit into an existing program with children 3 to 5 years of age, or can be run as an adjunct program.** It is often delivered in the morning, 3 or 4 days a week over a 6 – 8 week timeframe. Sometimes the 3 hour sessions are extended to allow for the integration of language and culture, or to seamlessly integrate School's Cool into an existing program.



*"You know, they wake up on the weekend and want to go to [School's Cool]. How often does that happen?"*

Parent

## A Strengths-Based Philosophy

**School's Cool focuses on the strengths and competencies of children** rather than perceived deficits. That strength-based approach also encompasses parents and colleagues. Instructors view (and help children view) problems and challenges as opportunities for learning, recognizing that there are options and solutions for any given situation. The program embraces a positive focus that normalizes difficulties, encourages self-confidence and a positive sense of self in children, which in turn leads to children who are excited about learning.



*"If we focus on their strengths, they're going to feel good about themselves. And if they feel good about themselves, they're going to do it more. And if they do it more, they're getting more practice. If they get more practice, guess what? They've mastered the skill!"*

School's Cool Coordinator

## The Ability to Evaluate/Measure

At the heart of School's Cool is the program's Developmental Checklist© – used to guide skill observations, measure child progress, evaluate the success of a program, and inform further planning. The Checklist outlines developmental steps along a continuum that are critical to a child's successful transition to school. These form the basis for the learning outcomes addressed by School's Cool activities.

**Instructors are trained in how to use the Developmental Checklist** as a tool to inform them about a child's skill level, to plan for skill advancement, to monitor progress, and **to evaluate the curriculum's impact** over the 6 – 8 weeks of the program. The Checklist is a concise compilation of the specific learning outcomes School's Cool addresses in 5 skill areas: language; math; psychological; social, self-help.



*"We're able to pinpoint where kids are at very quickly and very efficiently [and] what the next step needs to be."*

Instructor

## Parent Involvement

Parents are a child's first and most important influence on his or her early learning and development. **School's Cool Instructors learn through training how to best engage parents** in their children's learning experiences. A typical School's Cool program would have a variety of parent engagement strategies designed to build parent confidence, capacity and enthusiasm regarding their child's education and their role in that education.



*"Often we put School's Cool in areas where there is limited parent engagement, and School's Cool changes that."*

Superintendent of Education

## Quality Training and Materials

**The School's Cool System includes over 14 hours of quality training.** Training teaches Instructors about the solution-focused approach, how to embed a strength-based philosophy, how to plan, deliver and evaluate an effective outcome-focused School's Cool program. Training sets instructors up to achieve optimal outcomes with children. The School's Cool System provides training, instructor manual, curriculum, Developmental Checklist®, toolkit and resource manual.



*"The [School's Cool] DVDs are great! If a staff is struggling a bit, they can just take the DVDs and watch them."*

Trainer

For additional information, tours of School's Cool programs, interviews, information about the program or research, please call 705) 457-1742

