

KINDERGARTEN AT A GLANCE



Kindergarten is a wonderful way for your child to discover what school is like and to have fun while learning new things. In this exciting new community, children's natural curiosity and eagerness to learn are structured through organized activities and purposeful play. Your child will interact, imagine, experiment and explore to add to their knowledge, learn new skills and practise what they've learned.



EARLY LITERACY

A is for apple. Your child will begin to understand that letters have sounds and that together those sounds form words and carry meaning. They will have fun sharing their ideas and experiences, forming letters, printing their names and playing with the new words they learn.



MATHEMATICS

Learning numbers and solving problems with patterns. Your child will represent and describe quantities of things up to 10. They will understand and create repeating patterns and compare objects based on their attributes. They will solve problems involving numbers, patterns and objects, and connect numbers to their everyday life.



CITIZENSHIP AND IDENTITY

I am unique and I belong! Your child will develop a strong sense of identity, self-esteem and belonging by exploring their environment and sharing stories. They will see themselves as unique and discover the connections they have with others.



ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

What do I see, smell and hear in my community? How do I shape the environment? Kindergarten children explore materials, build structures and use technology to explore, investigate and describe their world. They see similarities and differences and become aware of how one action can cause something else.



PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

I know how to act and how to work and play with others. Kindergarten children develop ways to express their feelings positively and to show respect and care for others. Trying new things and taking risks give them confidence in their ability to learn so they take responsibility for completing activities.



PHYSICAL SKILLS AND WELL-BEING

A healthy body is part of a healthy life. Your child will begin to develop a love for physical activity through movement, games and activities. They will use a variety of equipment and see that they have the power to make healthy food choices and play safely.



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder! Drama, art, music and dance give your child ways to express their ideas and feelings, to bring their imagination to life and to see their creativity in a variety of forms. Your child will respond to objects and art, explore music and dance, and develop confidence through drama.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION BY VISITING

**My Child's Learning: A Parent
Resource**

<http://www.mychildslearning.alberta.ca>



ASSESSMENT

Throughout the Kindergarten year, your child's teacher will observe and record your child's learning and progress in relation to the expectations for the seven learning areas included in the *Kindergarten Program Statement*. The teacher will keep notes and use checklists to record observations. They will look not only at your child's work but also at the skills and strategies that your child uses. By observing your child many times in different situations, the teacher is better able to build a more complete assessment of your child's learning.

Information that the teacher gathers about each child is used in several ways. This information helps the teacher plan the learning environment and match learning activities to learning needs. The teacher is able to provide ongoing feedback to children to help them recognize what they know and are able to do, and to focus their efforts on more challenging activities.

Through oral or written reports, parent evenings, classroom visits and conferences, you and your child's teacher will exchange ideas and information, and you will learn more about your child's progress and achievements. In some Kindergarten programs, children participate in conferences with parents and the teacher. This experience allows children to reflect on and celebrate their learning and set future goals.

You play an integral role in your child's education by providing the encouragement and support he or she needs to succeed.

RESOURCES

Many Kindergarten programs have resources available for parents on a variety of topics, such as child development, discipline, parenting, health issues and community programs. The Kindergarten teacher and/or school principal may also suggest other places to look for information, such as libraries, local agencies or government offices.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

EARLY AND MIDDLE YEARS CURRICULUM SECTOR

Telephone: 780-422-7996

E-mail: EDC.DivisionalStrategicSupports@gov.ab.ca