

# My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource

## Kindergarten in Alberta



Children who go to Kindergarten often find it easier to start Grade 1 the following year. Kindergarten is not mandatory. Parents decide if their child will go to Kindergarten.

You are your child's first and most important educator. When your child begins Kindergarten, you and the teacher form a partnership to support learning at home and at school.

In Kindergarten, the values and beliefs of the home are acknowledged, and the cultural diversity of families is recognized.

### What will your child learn in Kindergarten?

#### In Kindergarten, children learn:

- independence
- decision making
- problem solving
- creativity
- relating to others

### Early Literacy

Children learn to use language to communicate thoughts, feelings, and experiences. They:

- explore and play with the shapes and sounds of letters and words to prepare them for reading and writing
- listen to stories and talk about the stories
- ask and answer questions
- learn about books and writing
- learn to write their names
- express how a story makes them feel
- start to write words.

### Early Numeracy

Children use mathematics to make sense of their world. They:

- count objects up to 10
- show a given number using pictures or objects
- sort objects by shape, colour, or size
- recognize and make patterns
- compare objects by length, weight, or volume.

### Environment and Community Awareness

Children:

- use their five senses (hearing, seeing, tasting, touching, smelling) to explore the world around them
- explore the use of blocks, wood, clay, water, and sound
- learn about shapes, colours, signs, and patterns
- find out about places and activities in the community.



## Citizenship and Identity

Children start to learn how to be good citizens. They learn:

- what makes them unique
- about their world and how they belong
- to share and show respect.

## Personal and Social Responsibility

Children learn to work and play with others. They learn:

- to work in a group
- how to make friends
- about feelings
- to follow directions and be responsible.

Learning through play is an important part of Kindergarten.

## Physical Skills and Well-being

Children learn to make good choices. They:

- learn how to be healthy
- learn how to be safe
- learn about exercise
- learn that their bodies develop well with good nutrition.

## Creative Expression

Children explore music, drama, and art to communicate feelings and ideas. They:

- join in action songs
- explore the use of paints, clay, crayons, and other materials
- learn about colours, shapes, lines, and patterns
- use imagination to tell stories using puppets and role-playing.

