


Welcome to Kindergarten



Kindergarten is an exciting time of growth and wonder. Children are discovering their own potential and interests, while learning about sharing, co-operation, responsibility, problem-solving, self-expression and decision-making.

At Edmonton Public Schools, we understand that no two children are alike and all come with varying levels of knowledge and skills. Every child, regardless of their background or abilities, is welcome to Kindergarten where learning through play is based on their individual strengths and needs.




The Kindergarten curriculum is based on Alberta Education's seven learning areas:

- 1 Early literacy
- 2 Early numeracy
- 3 Citizenship and identity
- 4 Environment and community awareness
- 5 Personal and social responsibility
- 6 Physical skills and well-being
- 7 Creative expression



More information about the Kindergarten program can be found at www.education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/handbook.aspx.



Children who are four years of age on or before March 1 may register in Kindergarten for the upcoming school year.

For more information about registration, open houses, Kindergarten orientation and transportation, visit www.epsb.ca or contact your school of choice.



First Day of School



While some children can't wait to start school, the prospect of leaving the comforts of home, learning new rules and adjusting to a new routine can leave others feeling anxious or worried.

For a smooth transition to Kindergarten, here are a few tips to put your child at ease before the big day.

- **Encourage your child to share their feelings.** Talk about all the new things they will get to do in Kindergarten and how exciting that will be.
- **Practice riding the bus.** Register for Edmonton Public Schools' annual First Riders event in August so you and your child can become familiar with the bus riding experience and yellow bus safety.
- **Take a school tour.** Visit a school open house or make an appointment to meet your child's teacher.
- **Establish a school routine.** Help your child adapt to their school schedule by going to bed at an appropriate time at least two weeks before the first day of school.
- **Read books about school.** The library will have many titles to choose from.
- **Encourage friendships.** Teach your child ways to make friends and try to introduce them to a classmate before the first day of school.

Adapted from Alberta Health Services

Learn Through PLAY

Children are naturally curious and eager to learn about the world around them. Through play, they have the opportunity to discover, explore and be creative.

To help your child be successful in school, provide them with plenty of play time. Playing develops important skills and behaviours in early childhood.

Listed below are a just few fun activities that you and your child can do together.

- Read to your child every day—even if that means reading the same book more than 100 times. It takes more than 5,000 "reads" to become a reader.
- Ask your child about the books you read together, using questions like "Why did you like this story?"; "Which story is your favourite?" and "What do you think is going to happen next?"
- Play board games, puzzles and card games like Go Fish.
- Get hands-on using Play-Doh, finger paints, beads and blocks, or bake together to keep your child busy and engaged.
- Visit the playground frequently so your child can meet other children and stay physically active.
- Provide art materials like crayons, paints, Play-Doh, scissors and paper to encourage their creative expression.
- Praise your child's drawings, paintings and writings, and put them up on the fridge or around the house to show you value their work.



Contact Us

Centre for Education
One Kingsway
Edmonton AB T5H 4G9
Canada

Kindergarten
780-429-8427

Student Transportation
780-429-8585

Special Education
780-429-8030

General Inquiries
780-429-8000

www.epsb.ca

[www.facebook.com/
EdmontonPublicSchools](http://www.facebook.com/EdmontonPublicSchools)

[www.twitter.com/
@EPSBNews](http://www.twitter.com/@EPSBNews)



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.

2+2

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.

KINDERGARTEN AT A GLANCE



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.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR
CHILD'S EDUCATION
BY VISITING

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

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



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

CITIZENSHIP AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Telephone: 780-427-2984

Fax: 780-422-0576

E-mail: curric.contact@education.gov.ab.ca

FRENCH LANGUAGE EDUCATION SERVICES

Telephone: 780-427-2940

Fax: 780-422-1947

E-mail: DEF@educ.gov.ab.ca

Ready For School?

Parents often ask, "Can I help my child be ready for school?" Yes, you can. Check the list below to see ways you can help your child at home.

Encourage your child to:

1. Follow simple directions (helping mom and dad).
2. Finish small tasks (putting away toys, etc.).
3. Sit still for short periods of time.
4. Put away clothes, toys, books, etc.
5. Speak clearly (not baby talk) using simple sentences.
6. Say "please", "thank you" and "excuse me".
7. Use a tissue properly.
8. Wash and dry face and hands alone.
9. Attend to toilet necessities quietly and unassisted.
10. Put on, fasten and remove coats, hats, mittens, snowsuits and boots.
11. Begin to work on learning his/her full name, address and phone number and also other family members' names.
12. Know how to take turns and allow others to take theirs when playing games.
13. Practice colouring neatly.
14. Practice cutting and pasting.
15. Practice recognizing and printing own name.
16. Listen to picture books, short stories, nursery rhymes, etc.
17. Look at a picture and name things in it.
18. Recognize colours.
19. Let others speak without interrupting.
20. Listen to a very short story and tell what happened in it.
21. Say some nursery rhymes.
22. Tie shoelaces independently.
23. Open snack containers.

Listed are some links to various sites that may give you some more information:

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QuickGuide

www.epsb.ca/schools/findaschool/

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

A Handbook for Parents

French Immersion Kindergarten in Alberta Learning

<https://archive.education.alberta.ca>

parents/resources for parents/more resources/French immersion Kindergarten in Alberta: A Handbook for Parents

IISLE (Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education)

French Immersion

<https://sites.google.com/a/epsb.ca/iisle-second-languages-epsb/french>

IISLE (Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education)

German Program

<https://sites.google.com/a/epsb.ca/iisle-second-languages-epsb/german>

The Leader in Me™

Habit #1 YOU'RE IN CHARGE

Be Proactive
Soyez proactifs

- ✓ I am a responsible person.
- ✓ I take initiative.
- ✓ I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods.
- ✓ I do not blame others for my wrong actions.
- ✓ I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit #2 HAVE A PLAN

Begin with the End in Mind
Sachez dès le départ où vous voulez aller

- ✓ I plan ahead and set goals.
- ✓ I do things that have meaning and make a difference.
- ✓ I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision, and look for ways to be a good citizen.

Habit #3 WORK FIRST, THEN PLAY

Put First Things First
Donnez la priorité aux priorités

- ✓ I spend my time on things that are most important.
- ✓ This means I say no to things I know I should not do.
- ✓ I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan.
- ✓ I am disciplined and organized.

Carry your own weather.



Habit #4 EVERYONE CAN WIN

Think Win-Win
Pensez gagnant/gagnant

- ✓ I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want.
- ✓ I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts.
- ✓ When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

Habit #5 LISTEN BEFORE YOU TALK

Seek First To Understand, Then To Be Understood
Cherchez d'abord à comprendre, ensuite à être compris

- ✓ I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.
- ✓ I try to see things from their viewpoints.
- ✓ I listen to others without interrupting.
- ✓ I am confident in voicing my ideas.
- ✓ I look people in the eyes when talking.

Habit #6 TOGETHER IS BETTER

Synergize
Profitez de la synergie

- ✓ I value other people's strengths and learn from them.
- ✓ I get along well with others, even people who are different than me.
- ✓ I work well in groups.
- ✓ I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than any one of us alone.
- ✓ I am humble.

Habit #7 BALANCE FEELS BEST

Sharpen the Saw
Aiguiser vos facultés

- ✓ I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep.
- ✓ I spend time with family and friends.
- ✓ I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school.
- ✓ I take time to find meaningful ways to help others.

2017-18 District Calendar

epsb.ca

AUGUST • 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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SEPTEMBER • 2017

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OCTOBER • 2017

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APPROVED HOLIDAYS

Labour Day	September 4
Thanksgiving	October 9
Winter Break	December 25 - January 5
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26
New Year's Day	January 1
Family Day	February 19
Teachers' Convention	March 1 & 2
Spring Break	March 26 - 30
Good Friday	March 30
Easter Monday	April 2
Victoria Day	May 21

NOVEMBER • 2017

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DECEMBER • 2017

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JANUARY • 2018

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FEBRUARY • 2018

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MARCH • 2018

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APRIL • 2018

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LEGEND

	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	PD DAY (NO STUDENTS)
	FIRST/LAST DAY OF CLASSES
	OPERATIONAL DAY (NO STUDENTS)
	TEACHERS' CONVENTION
	TEACHERS' DAY IN LIEU (NO TEACHERS OR STUDENTS)
	BOARD APPROVED NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (NO TEACHERS OR STUDENTS)
	WINTER/SPRING BREAK

MAY • 2018

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JUNE • 2018

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JULY • 2018

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EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio Booster Second dose Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine

Immunizations protect your child from serious childhood diseases. Diseases spread more easily when children are together in a group. Ensure your child is protected from vaccine preventable diseases by having his/her immunizations up to date. Kindergarten immunizations are given at the Public Health Centres.

After their 4th birthday most children should have:

- A booster dose of DTaP-IPV (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio) vaccine,
- A second dose of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine,

If immunization is needed, call your local Public Health Centre for an appointment.

If you have any questions, please call:

- Health Link Alberta at 780-408-LINK (5465) or 1-866-408-LINK (5465).