



Kindergarten Program

Our Kindergarten program runs on Tuesday and Thursday, from 9.00 a.m. to 3.15 p.m. There will also be a community field trip on a non-school day of every month.

Our program is funded by Alberta Learning, and we therefore follow the rationale and philosophy that has been prepared by Alberta Learning for the Kindergarten program. The basic outline of this philosophy is provided in the attached pamphlet "Kindergarten At-A-Glance." (2008-2009 copy). More information will be available in the fall in the handbook, "Kindergarten In Alberta: A Handbook for Parents: 2009-2010" which will be available at school, and which can also be downloaded from the Alberta Education website at www.education.gov.ab.ca.

The Kindergarten program not only helps prepare children for entry into Grade 1, but also provides a foundation for later success. The purpose of Kindergarten is to provide learning experiences that are developmentally appropriate in order to meet the diverse needs of children and promote a positive attitude toward lifelong learning.

The Kindergarten learner expectations describe learning areas that are appropriate for young children and are part of a continuum of learning. Some children are already developing, or have developed, some of these skills. Most children will achieve these skills before they enter Grade 1. Others will continue to develop them during the primary school years.

The Kindergarten Program Statement provides learner expectations in seven learning areas:

- Early Literacy
- Early Numeracy
- Environment and Community Awareness
- Personal and Social Responsibility
- Physical Skills and Well-being
- Creative and Cultural Expression
- Citizenship and Identity.

The expectations of the seven learning areas are interrelated and meet the social, physical, intellectual, cultural, creative and emotional needs of young children. The learning areas provide a transition to the subject area expectations of elementary schooling.

In our program, the learner expectations of the Kindergarten Program Statement will be integrated through learning activities that are developmentally appropriate for young children. These will be adapted and modified to meet the needs of each child. As young children learn in an integrated way, much of the learning identified in this program statement will be accomplished simultaneously with the use of monthly themes, centers and workshops.

A Typical Day

Children begin the day by 'signing in.' Students write their name on a sign-in sheet. They also find their nametags and place pictures on an attendance board.

Circle time (10-15 minutes) is a group gathering time where ideas, plans and observations are shared. Circle activities are designed to stimulate thinking, enrich social skills and to expand attention spans. Calendar activities are an important part of this time.

Writer's Workshop (20-30 minutes). Children draw and write freely at different centres in this time. Their thoughts are scribed and they are also encouraged to write as many letters and words as possible. We use the *Kid Writing* program, which teaches children how to use their knowledge of letters and sounds in writing. We also use the *Handwriting Without Tears* program to help children with letter and number formation.

ABC Workshop (20 minutes). In this time, children have a mini-reading lesson, which can be in a large group or small group setting. Beginning reading concepts and phonics (using the *Jolly Phonics Reading Program*) will be introduced, and children will read together and independently. A home reading program will be introduced in September. The ABC centre will reflect the focus of the week.

Math Workshop (20 minutes) Math concepts such as classification, numbers, graphing, and measurement will be introduced in a large group or small group setting. The math centre will reflect the focus of the week.

Inquiry (20 minutes) Discussion of science or social studies topics (themes). The aim is to build on children's prior knowledge and understanding, and introduce new information through questioning and research.

Physical Education (30 minutes) gives children an opportunity to exercise and move through games, gymnastics and dance.

Music Time (20 minutes) Children explore sound, volume, tempo, and rhythm; and explore simple instruments. Children learn new songs, and learn to identify a few famous composers.

Snack (10 minutes) **and Lunch time** (20 minutes) Children bring a nutritious and healthy snack from home. We encourage good table manners and healthy eating habits.

Recess (20 minutes). Weather permitting; the children will play outdoors in the playground.

Centres (1 hour). Children rotate between different activities that have been set out. These may include manipulatives, art activities, science discovery activities, projects, worksheets, computer activities, and games. Centre activities are usually planned according to the theme of the month and the focus of the week.

Story time (15 minutes). Stories are read, told, and shared to help children develop an appreciation and enjoyment of literature. Story time also helps to expand attention spans, enhance vocabulary and comprehension skills, and extends knowledge.

Sharing and Show and Tell. Selected groups of children share their work, and show an object that they have brought from home.

General Information

We will have 1 full time assistant, Ms. Linda Overall, in the Kindergarten classroom this year.

Assessment is ongoing and parent-teacher interviews will be conducted twice during the year. In March, students will show parents their work in Student-Led Conferences. Three report cards will be issued. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher during the year with any concerns. Children will receive a portfolio of work at the end of the year.

Please note that although Alberta Learning funds the Kindergarten program, fundraising programs are still essential to fund some operational and administrative costs.

Each child must bring his or her own lunch, snack and drink everyday. PLEASE NO PEANUT PRODUCTS. A water cooler is available for drinking water. Children can bring a cup, which can be left at school.

Each child needs running shoes (non-marking sole) that will remain in school. A change of clothes should also be kept in their backpacks. Parents are asked to label clothes, shoes and boots.

A professional photographer will take pictures at the beginning of the year. The date will be announced in September.