



# ECS

# Kindergarten

# Ready, Set, Go!



Buffalo Trail Public Schools is committed to maximizing student learning, in a safe and caring environment, supported by a highly effective team.

[www.btps.ca](http://www.btps.ca)

2024/2025

## A Welcome from our Superintendent:

Welcome to Buffalo Trail Public Schools! We are incredibly grateful that you've chosen and entrusted us as you and your child embark on this educational journey. Our dedicated team is excited to warmly welcome your family into our vibrant community, where we prioritize creating a safe, caring, and enriching environment for every kindergartener to thrive both academically and personally. We are thrilled to have you and your little one join the BTPS family.

Michelle Webb  
Superintendent



*Buffalo Trail Public Schools is committed to maximizing student learning, in a safe and caring environment, supported by a highly effective team.*

Buffalo Trail Public Schools is committed to assisting our early learners in reaching emotional, social, intellectual and physical milestones and ensuring that they are ready for grade school.

BTPS understands that young children entering school have unique and varied skill sets, based on a variety of factors. BTPS provides many supports and services that are designed to increase every child's participation in learner outcomes and to meet every child's diverse learning profile.



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# Welcome to ECS - Kindergarten!

“Kindergarten is a wonderful way for your child to discover what school is like and to have fun while learning new things.

Kindergarten! ... here I come!



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.” [Alberta Education, Kindergarten at a Glance](#)

# What is Kindergarten?

Kindergarten is a part of the Alberta Education learning continuum and is offered the year before grade 1. It is a play based learning opportunity for your child to establish the foundations that increase successes in their future learning. It is an important milestone in your child's life and marks their formal entry into school. Our programs are offered in an inclusive school environment with opportunities to participate in classes such as Physical Education, Music, STEM, and Art.

Kindergarten:

- Provides a strong foundation for future learning
- Makes the transition into grade 1 more successful
- Improves early reading, writing, and math skills
- provides opportunities for peer connections and socialization.

Using the [Alberta Education Kindergarten Curriculum](#), certified teachers prepare lessons full of investigation, critical thinking, and collaboration with others. Programs run full days on either Tues/Thurs or Mon/Wed with a scheduled rotation of Fridays.

# What Does Our Kindergarten Look Like?

Thanks to the team based approach of families, staff, and specialists, an enriching educational experience for each child in their local community school is possible. Our child centered programs and supports use the Alberta Education Kindergarten curriculum and infuse it within play-based learning and structured activities. Our learning experiences focus on areas that include:

**Language and Communication:** Opportunities that include lots of storytelling, reading, listening, and vocabulary building activities to enhance language and communication skills.

**Cognitive Skills:** Introduction to letters, numbers, shapes, and basic literacy and mathematical concepts through fun and interactive activities.

**Physical Development:** Activities and experiences that help children grow in their fine and gross motor skills to help them prepare for kindergarten and daily living.

**Social Skills and Approaches to Learning:** Group play, sharing, and cooperation activities to develop social skills and emotional intelligence.

**Awareness of Self and Environment:** Experiences to grow a child's understanding of the world and their ability to make connections between classroom, home, and the community.

# Sample Kindergarten Activities:

Your child's kindergarten day includes both organized activities and purposeful play. The following skills may be encountered by your child in kindergarten.

**Why not try a few at home!**

1. Put a puzzle together.
2. Use blocks or Lego to build a tower.
3. Colour a picture.
4. Draw a picture.
5. Print first name.
6. Trace different shapes.
7. Cut pictures out of magazines.
8. Cut out shapes.
9. Count 10 stairs as you walk up them.
10. Count out 10 nickels or marbles.
11. Sing nursery rhymes.
12. Sing the ABC song.
13. Read story books.
14. Hop, skip, gallop or walk backwards.
15. Play a board or card game to practice taking turns.



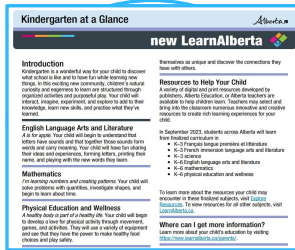


# What Will My Child Learn?

The skills your child will learn in Kindergarten are called **Kindergarten Learner Outcomes** and below is a list of documents that best explain them. Or, visit the Alberta Education Website at [www.learnalberta.ca](http://www.learnalberta.ca) for a complete listing of resources regarding Kindergarten.



## [A Parent's Guide to Kindergarten](#)



## [Kindergarten at a Glance](#)



## [What Will My Child Learn in Kindergarten?](#)



# Is My Child Eligible for Kindergarten?

## Is My Child Eligible?

To be eligible to attend in the 2024/25 school year, children must be 5 years old on or before December 31, 2024.



## How Do I Register?

You may register your child for Kindergarten starting in January 2024. We kindly ask that you please contact your local school to register and/or register online and make arrangements to provide the following necessary documents:

- Birth certificate or Canadian Citizenship
- Resident address and/or rural land location

Registration:  
[http://www.btps.ca/  
Registration.php](http://www.btps.ca/Registration.php)

“I love learning with my friends while I play!”  
- Every child

# Is My Child Ready?

Kindergarten is the start of an exciting adventure for your child. Though your child does not have to have any specific knowledge or skills to begin, it is helpful if they can:



# I'm Worried My Child Isn't Ready

Children develop at different rates, so you may choose to enroll your child in the first year they are eligible for kindergarten, or wait until they are already 5 when they start kindergarten.

The following resources can help you make your decision:

## Local School:

Talk to your school's kindergarten teacher about your concerns.



## Ages and Stages Questionnaire:

The "Ages and Stages" developmental questionnaire looks at your child's complete development: intellectual, social, fine motor, personal, and communication abilities are assessed and the questionnaire is an excellent tool to help you determine if your child is ready for kindergarten.

You can access the questionnaire by calling The Wainwright and District Family Resource Network at (780) 842 - 2555



## Alberta Health Services:

Attend a local walk in clinic with your child and discuss concerns you have with a speech/language pathologist, physical therapist, or occupational therapist.

# Is My Child Eligible for ECS Early Entrance/ Early Intervention?



Some young children are eligible for **early entrance/ early intervention programming**, which is available through *each* BTPS Early Childhood Services site. It is **only** available specifically to children with assessed:

- \*severe developmental delays from 2.8 to 4.8 years of age
- \*mild/moderate developmental delays from 3.8 to 4.8 years of age

Early entrance and early intervention programming is designed to support children who have identified delays in their development of language and communication, cognitive skills, social-emotional skills, and/or physical health and well being.

Early intervention programming has been shown to promote and support a child's development, learning progress, and social-emotional skills.

Early intervention program placement may occur in a number of different ECS settings.

For more information, please see our [ECS Early Entrance/Intervention Handbook](#), local community school and/ or contact the Early Childhood Services Lead at 780-806-2049.

# Tips for Transition:

You can help your child prepare for a new kindergarten experience:



- \* Encourage your child to be **independent**. Encourage them to dress themselves, use the bathroom on their own, pick up after themselves, and help out in small ways around the house.
- \* Develop **routines for bedtimes and mornings**. Five year olds need approximately 10-12 hours of sleep each night. As well, dealing with backpacks, lunches, library books, and cold weather clothing will be a daily occurrence and will take some practice to complete in a timely manner.
- \* Give your child **opportunities to make choices and solve problems**. Encourage your child to express what they want/need or take a moment to “figure something out ” on their own.
- \* **Talk about school in a positive manner** and help your child feel excited about their new experience. Purchase any school supplies needed before your first day of kindergarten.
- \* **Take your child to the school and playground** before school starts so it becomes familiar to them. Attend the kindergarten information evening at your school, ask for a school tour or time when you could meet the bus driver.
- \* Provide your child with a **well balanced diet** and opportunities for daily indoor and outdoor **play and exercise**.

# What is Purposeful Play?

***“Play expands intelligence, stimulates the imagination, encourages creative problem solving, and helps develop confidence, self-esteem and a positive attitude towards learning.”***

Dr. Fraser Mustard



Research shows us that play and academic work are not separate categories for young children. When children are manipulating objects, acting out roles or experimenting with different materials they are constructing, challenging and expanding their own understanding. Being playful is a child’s natural state and is the most preferred, efficient way of garnering information. Kindergarten educators in BTPS intentionally plan and create purposeful play activities that promote the healthy development of young children.

inspired by [CMEC Statement on Play-Based Learning](#)



# Eye See... Eye Learn Program

Has your child had their annual eye exam? It's important to do before they start school!

### Eye See...Eye Learn™

is a program that provides kindergarten-aged students with a comprehensive eye exam from an optometrist. There is Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19. **If required, kindergarten-aged students also receive a free pair of eyeglasses.**



## How kindergarten-aged students participate

**Step 1** Parents can find a participating optometrist at [optometrists.ab.ca](http://optometrists.ab.ca). Click on Find an Optometrist and Eye See...Eye Learn™, then enter your postal code to find a doctor close to you. **Call and book an appointment.**

**Step 2** See your optometrist for the eye exam. Have your health card ready. There is **Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19.**

**Step 3** If required, kindergarten-aged students will **receive a free pair of eyeglasses.** Ask to see the frame selection available. The optometrist will order your glasses for you.

**\*Free glasses are covered by a one year manufacturer's warranty.**

## Who can participate?

**Eye See...Eye Learn™** is available to all **kindergarten-aged students** in Alberta. It's important to address eye health and vision problems before children begin school.

Children are eligible from August until they begin grade one.



## Eye exam coverage

There is Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19. It's a painless, non-invasive process that could change their lives!

## Did you know?

- 80% of learning is visual.
- 1 in 4 school-aged children has a vision problem.
- An eye exam detects health problems such as crossed eyes or lazy eye.
- Children with vision problems are often misdiagnosed as having learning or behavioural disabilities.
- The earlier an eye health or visual problem is identified, the more likely it can be corrected.
- Children often don't know they have a vision problem, as they believe what they are seeing is normal.
- It is not uncommon for parents to believe they would know if their child has a vision problem, because these issues can be hard to spot particularly if there is a problem in only one of the eyes.

## What is an optometrist?

Your optometrist (doctor of optometry) is a primary source for all your vision, eye health and eyewear needs. They have the knowledge, tools and equipment necessary to diagnose, treat, prescribe medications or refer to a specialist, if needed.





# Eye See... Eye Learn Program

## How well can your child see?



Eye See...™  
Eye Learn!

**You can't see the world through your child's eyes, but your optometrist can. During your child's eye exam, your optometrist will assess:**

- Visual acuity (how well they can see)
- Lazy eye, crossed eyes
- Nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism
- Colour vision
- Eye coordination, tracking and depth perception
- Eye health



For more information about **Eye See...Eye Learn™** contact the Alberta Association of Optometrists at 1-800-272-8843 or visit [optometrists.ab.ca/esel](http://optometrists.ab.ca/esel)

**Alberta Association of Optometrists**

**Eyewear Partners:**



**ONESIGHT**  
Sight Learning Foundation



**Modern Optical**  
C A N A D A



The Alberta Association of Optometrists gratefully acknowledges funding support from the Government of Alberta.





# Lunches for Young Children



BTPS schools are **allergy aware** schools, please contact your local school for any restrictions that may exist, or if your child has allergies that the school needs to be aware of.

- \* Young children have small stomachs and need to eat small regular meals and snacks throughout the day. Pack a variety of food from each food group in small ready-to-eat amounts, and packages. Mini muffins, cheese cubes, grapes, carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes are great.
- \* Young children are strongly influenced by how food looks. Using foods in different colours or shapes can be very appealing. Try mixing fruits of different colours or cutting cheese or sandwiches with cookie cutters.
- \* Get your child involved by giving them choices when it comes to lunches. Create a homemade snack mix of crackers, cereal, dried fruit and pretzels or let them choose what kind of bread or filling for their sandwich. Having them help prepare and pack the lunch leads to good eating habits that will follow them the rest of their life.
- \* Occasionally pack a surprise! Who doesn't like a smiley face drawn on a banana or a little note saying I love you!
- \* The option to heat a lunch in a microwave may not be available for Kindergarten students. Please ask your child's teacher before sending a lunch that needs heating.
- \* There are many websites and cookbooks dedicated to school lunch ideas, that can help you think of different ways to keep your child interested in eating healthy.

Inspired by [Healthy Parents Healthy Children.ca](https://www.healthychildren.com)

# Transportation

You can register for Transportation services in 3 ways:

\*Call the BTPS Transportation Office at 780-806-2052

\*email [transportation@btps.ca](mailto:transportation@btps.ca)

\*visit the BTPS website

<https://sites.google.com/a/btps.ca/btps-transportation-registrations/>

Advanced notice of transportation needs are appreciated as it assists in efficient planning of bus routes for the upcoming school year.

For more information regarding transportation regulations and fees, and to find out about bus cancellations and inclement weather policies, please visit:

<https://www.btps.ca/departments/transportation>



# Kindergarten Programs:

School	Days/Times	Contact Info
APPLE Centre - Amisk	Tuesday/Thursday (full year) Wednesday (Feb-June)	780-856-3771
Dewberry School - Dewberry	private program	780-847-3051
Dr. Folkins Community School - Chauvin	Tuesday/Thursday (Sept-Dec) Monday/Wednesday/Friday (Jan-June)	780-858-3744
EH Walter – Paradise Valley	Tuesday/Thursday (full year) Wednesday (Feb-June)	780-745-2277
Edgerton School - Edgerton	Tuesday/Thursday (full year) Wednesday (Feb-June)	780-755-3810
Innisfree Delnorte School - Innisfree	private program	592-3963
Irma School - Irma	A)Monday/Wednesday and alternating Fridays (full year) B) (possible) T/Th and alternating Fridays (full year)	780-754-3746
Kitscoty Elementary School - Kitscoty	private program	780-846-2822
Mannville School -Mannville	Tuesday/Thursday (full year) Friday (Dec-June)	780-763-3615
Marwayne Jubilee School - Marwayne	Tuesday/Thursday (full year) Wednesday (Jan - June)	780-847-3930
Provost Public School - Provost	Monday/Wednesday (full year) Friday (specified)	780-753-6824
Vermilion Elementary School -Vermilion	A) T/Th alternate F (full year) B) M/W alternate F (full year)	780-853-5444
Wainwright Elementary School - Wainwright	A) T/Th alternate F (full year) B) M/W alternate F (full year) c) T/Th alternate F (full year)	780-842-3361

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):

## Age Requirement?

Your child must be five years of age by December 31 of the school year.

## Program Times?

Kindergartens follow the regular BTPS school calendar. Children receive 475 hours of instruction starting in September and ending in June. Programs are full day programs 2-3 times per week, and those days vary from site to site. See page 16 for more details.

## What will be learned?

Kindergarten follows a curriculum designed and approved by Alberta Education. Educators in BTPS use a common report card, and classrooms offer enriching opportunities in both structured activities and purposeful play. See pg. 6 for more information.



## Should my child attend Kindergarten?

Yes, it is advantageous for a child to attend kindergarten. Early learning experiences enhance overall development and children who attend are better able to make transitions to a grade one setting.

## Is the school ready for my child?

You can be confident that the school will build on all the important learning that you have helped your child achieve. Your child will be welcomed into the classroom as a unique individual, as schools are prepared to support children with different skill levels, experiences and diverse backgrounds.

## Costs?

Schools in BTPS charge a small amount to kindergarten families for enhanced education fees, such as supplemental support fees, and technology fees. There may also be some unique fees during the school year for field trips/activities or transportation related expenses (201.5AP Student Fees).

## Parent's Role?

Research shows that the children of parents who get involved in the school, learn better. Parents are encouraged to connect with schools by volunteering their time in the classroom, at activities such as field trips, attending parent teacher conferences or joining parent councils.



# Welcome to our School Family!

For more information, please contact your [local community school](#) and/ or contact the Early Childhood Services Lead at 780-806-2049.



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