



# ECS

## Early Entrance/ Intervention

### 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)

2025/2026

## 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



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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 - Early Entrance/Intervention with BTPS!

"Lifelong learning starts the moment we are born. The first six years of our lives are a time of unparalleled discovery. We learn about the world around us. Personalities take shape and we begin to lay the foundation of knowledge that will support us as we enter the education system." - Alberta Education

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](#)



# Is My Child Eligible for ECS Early Entrance/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 your local community school and/ or contact the Early Childhood Services Lead at 780-806-1798.**

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

## Is My Child Eligible?

To be eligible to attend in the 2025/26 school year, children must be between 2.8 and 4.8 years old on or before September 1, 2025.



## How Do I Register?

You may register your child for Early Entrance /Intervention starting in May 2025. We kindly ask that you please contact your friendly local BTPS school and/or the BTPS Early Childhood Services Lead at (780) 806-1798 for more information. If your child meets the program eligibility criteria, you will be asked to register and make arrangements with your friendly local school. You will need to provide the following necessary documents at the time of registration:

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

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

# What is ECS Early Entrance/Intervention?

**The Early Entrance/Intervention program** supports children between the ages 2 years 8 months and 4 years 8 months who require further development in the areas of language & communication, cognitive skills, social-emotional skills, and/or physical health & well-being to best prepare them for their Kindergarten year. To qualify, children must have an identified developmental delay, or a medically diagnosed disability.

- Programs vary with possibilities of a half or full day durations.
- ECS Early Entrance/Intervention is taught by qualified individuals and supported by Inclusive Learning Teachers. Programming may be further supported by professionals in the areas of SLP, OT, PT, Ed Behaviour, therapy assistants and educational assistants.
- Children who qualify for ECS Early Entrance/Intervention May be eligible for 2- 3 years of Early Entrance/Intervention programming depending on age.



# What Does Our ECS Early Entrance/Intervention Program Look Like?

Thanks to the team based approach of families, education staff, and specialists, an enriching educational experience for each child in their local community school is possible. Our child centered programs and services are offered with the support of specialized team members within early learning environments through 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.

# What Does Our ECS Early Entrance/Intervention Program Look Like? (continued)

**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.

# Individual Support Plans (ISPs)

Every child in the ECS Early Entrance/Intervention program has an Individual Support Plan (ISP) that is designed to meet their specific learning strengths and needs in areas that may include language and communication, cognitive skills, social - emotional skills, and/or physical health and wellbeing. Parents are active participants on their child's learning team.

# Sample Early Entrance/Intervention Activities:

Your child's time in Early Entrance/Intervention programming includes both organized activities and purposeful play. The following skills may be encountered by your child in their program. **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.



# I Wonder if My Child Would Benefit From an Early Entrance/Intervention Program?

Children develop at different rates, so if you have questions and/or concerns the following resources below may be able to 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.



# Tips for Transition:

**You can help your child prepare for a new school based 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**. Young children 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.
- \* **Take your child to the school and playground** before school starts so it becomes familiar to them. Attend any information events the program offers, ask for a tour or time when you could meet those working to support your child.
- \* 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. ECS 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](#)



# Snacks 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 Pre- K PUF children. 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](http://HealthyParentsHealthyChildren.ca)

# Early Entrance/Intervention Programs are Offered in these Welcoming BTPS Sites:

School	Days/Times	Contact Info
APPLE Centre - Amisk	Tuesday/Thursday (full year) Wednesday (Feb-June)	780-856-3771
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
Irma School - Irma	A) Monday/Wednesday and alternating Fridays (full year) B) (possible) T/Th and alternating Fridays (full year)	780-754-3746
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 between the ages of 2.8 and 4.8 years of age by September 1 of the school year join an Early Entrance/Intervention program.

## Program Times?

Early Entrance/Intervention program hours vary depending on the needs and abilities of the child to attend. Program hours may vary depending on the strengths and needs of the child and are usually between 300 and 800 programming hours for the duration for the school year (September to June).

## What will be learned?

Early Entrance/Intervention programs follow a carefully designed plan (ISP) that meets the developmental strengths and needs of the child, the program also supports the transition into future educational experiences. Educators in BTPS offer enriching opportunities in both structured activities and purposeful play environments. Please see pages 9 and 10 for more information.



## Should my child attend an Early Entrance/Intervention program?

If your child is eligible to receive services, it is greatly advantageous for your child to attend a program. Early learning experiences enhance overall development and children who attend are better able to make transitions into a kindergarten 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?

Early Entrance/Intervention programs in BTPS may charge a small fee dependant upon the program and ECS environment chosen. Please inquire with the Early Childhood Services Lead for more information.

## Parent's Role?

Research shows that the children of parents who are involved in their child's program learn better. Parents are encouraged to connect and be involved with their child's Early Entrance/Intervention program by volunteering their time in the classroom (where appropriate), participating in activities such as field trips, and attending parent meetings, etc..

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# Welcome to our School Family!

For further information regarding opportunities and programming, please contact your [local community school](#) and/ or contact the Early Childhood Services Lead at 780-806-1798.



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