



KINDERGARTEN

IN
EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT INFORMATION

2021 / 2022





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

Dr. Fraser Mustard



www.ecsd.net

CONTENTS

KINDERGARTEN	4
WHY KINDERGARTEN?	5
UNIVERSAL DESIGNS FOR KINDERGARTEN	6
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY	6
REGISTRATION INFORMATION	7
CATHOLICITY	8
HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD	9
LANGUAGE ARTS	10
MATHEMATICS	12
KINDERGARTEN AT-A-GLANCE	14



KINDERGARTEN

IN EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IS THE BEGINNING OF AN INCREDIBLE CONTINUUM OF LEARNING.

Our Division has a variety of programming that includes our community schools as well as programs of choice in which multiple environments support flexible and responsive programming to best meet your child's needs.

KATHOLOS – WELCOMING ALL

Please visit our website at www.ecsd.net.



WHY KINDERGARTEN?

EARLY EXPERIENCES BUILD BRAINS

(Taken from the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative)

Contrary to popular belief, the structure of our brains as they develop in early childhood is determined by more than just our genes. The experiences we have in the first years of our lives also affect the physical architecture of the developing brain.

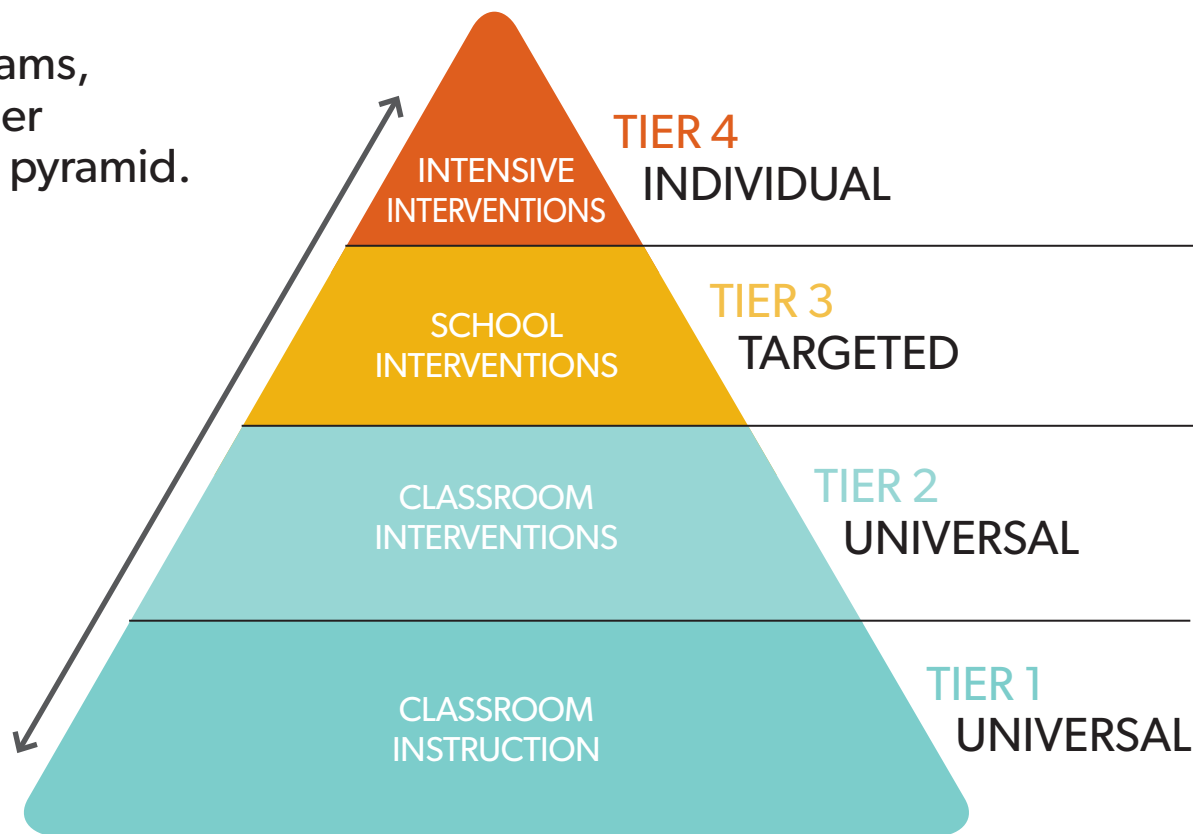
That has consequences for our health and for our communities—because the brains we take with us into adulthood determine our physical and mental health, our ability to maintain healthy relationships, and our ability to contribute as productive, responsible citizens. Because brains are built in stages, with more complex structures built on simpler structures, it's crucial to get the early years right. Think of building a house: before framing the walls, a foundation has to be poured. Before wiring the house, walls and floors need to be built. Our brains are also built in sequence, and early childhood is about laying a solid foundation to serve as a base for later development. Once architecture is built, foundation repairs are costly, so supporting early childhood is a worthwhile investment.

Please see albertafamilywellness.org for additional information!



UNIVERSAL DESIGNS FOR KINDERGARTEN

In our programs,
we use a 4 tier
intervention pyramid.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology is an umbrella term that includes assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices for persons with disabilities as well as the process used in selecting, trialing and implementing them. Assistive Technology allows access to learning for children who have barriers due to their disabilities. Our Multi-disciplinary Team also includes an Augmentative and Alternative Communications Team. This is a highly specialized support team that includes an AT specialist, speech language pathologist, occupational therapist and therapeutic assistants. Edmonton Catholic Schools is an approved AADL (Alberta Aids to Daily Living) level 2 service provider.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

How old must my child be to register for a Kindergarten program?

To register for Kindergarten, your child must be five years old on or before December 31st of the school year that they will be starting Kindergarten.

Please use the *Locate Your School* tool on the district website to determine your community school at www.ecsd.net.

What documentation is required to register for Kindergarten?

You will be asked to provide proof of your child's name, date of birth and citizenship. Only the following documents are accepted:

- Birth Certificate
- Permanent Resident Card
- Parent Work Permit
- Parent Study Permit
- Adoption Papers

Please provide the school with copies of all external assessments that you may have (including diagnosis from health care professionals and Alberta Health Services) at time of application. In the event that you do not have an official copy, please request the documentation from the writer and submit to the school as soon as possible. This supports the school in better meeting the learning needs of your child.

Visit www.ecsd.net for more information and to register for our programs.



CATHOLICITY

At Edmonton Catholic Schools, the Catholic Faith is integrated with and permeates throughout our Kindergarten programs. Song, prayer, stories, symbols and role plays are just a few examples of how Christ's teachings may be integrated into your child's day.

DIVISION MISSION

The mission of Edmonton Catholic Schools is to provide a Catholic Education that inspires students to learn and prepares them to live fully and to serve God in one another.

*From the very beginning,
since love begins at home,
I think we should teach our children
to love one another.*

Mother Teresa



HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD

STARTING SCHOOL

There are many ways that you can make the transition to school go smoothly for your child:

- Talk often about Kindergarten and reassure your child that it will be an exciting experience.
- Attend the Kindergarten Open House at your child's school in the spring. Check the school's website for date and time. www.ecsd.net
- Find out when your child can meet his or her teacher and have a tour of the classroom.
- Help your child develop a sense of responsibility. Encourage your child to learn to look after his or her belongings. For example...dressing self, putting clothing away.

Here are some other ideas to consider:

- Read with your child daily and have conversations about the books read.
- Visit the public library.
- Explore the world that your child lives in. Talk about what your child sees. Point out signs, numbers and letters that he or she sees.
- Provide opportunities for your child to interact with other children to promote the development of social skills.
- Encourage your child to know personal information about him or herself (i.e. First and last name, phone number and address).
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes together.
- Celebrate together in the little accomplishments that occur each day.
- Pray together.
- Speak to your child in his or her first language to build a strong foundation for communication.

DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Be involved in the Kindergarten experience as much as you can.
- Keep in contact with your child's teacher so you are both informed about your child's progress and development.
- Talk with your child about his or her experiences in school.
- Practice motor skills such as throwing and catching, drawing, cutting and doing puzzles.
- Have many conversations with your child to support oral literacy development. You can build your child's language by:
 - Eating dinner together,
 - Talking about the day,
 - Having conversations in the car,
 - Talking about favorite memories (i.e. highlights from summer holidays, sharing verbal stories from your own childhood),
 - Taking turns making up stories to share.
- Read newsletters and share in digital classroom updates. Talk about your child's classroom experiences.
- Be open to conversation with your child and listen for what he or she is feeling.
- Provide as many different experiences as possible for your child. Explore libraries, museums, or community events as a few examples. Diverse experiences have significant impacts on school achievement.



The development of early literacy is fostered through active engagement as children develop an understanding of how oral and written language support communication. Children develop language when they are provided opportunities to communicate their thinking, feelings and experiences; develop relationships with peers and adults; and when encouraged to explore their natural curiosities. Authentic opportunities to develop literacy are present in everyday activities such as playing, reading, storytelling, grocery shopping, attending to print around them, and through dialogue. Providing children with relevant and engaging literacy experiences promote language development and positive attitudes towards language learning.

In Kindergarten, we continually work towards meeting the important goals of English language arts education by providing opportunities for children to develop literacy in all aspects of the PreK / K program. Literacy development does not happen in isolation but through play, inquiry, routines, and authentic relationships children learn how to use language to make sense of their world.

The main goals of English language arts education are to prepare students to:

- use oral language to communicate thoughts, feelings, experiences, ideas, opinions, values, beliefs, tradition and stories
- use reading and visual media (television, advertising, symbols, drama, drawings, sculptures and paintings) to access ideas, views and experiences of others
- communicate thinking and knowledge through writing text and creating visual media (television, advertising, symbols, drama, drawings, sculptures and paintings)
- commit themselves to lifelong learning and develop a love of language
- develop a greater world view while building intercultural awareness
- become language-literate adults, using the English language to contribute to society

Alberta. Alberta Learning. Alberta Program of Studies for English Language Arts K-9. Edmonton: Alberta Education, 2000. Print.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

Take advantage of every day opportunities to read, write and speak with your child:

- Read and reread new and familiar, books with your child
- Draw attention to familiar everyday printed words on packaging (eg. milk)
- Make a shopping list together (eg. "What sound do you hear at the beginning of apple?")
- Notice letters on a walk (eg. "Looks at the S-T-O-P sign. What does it say?")
- Play "I Spy" (eg. "I spy a vegetable that starts with ...")
- Play rhyming games (eg. "Do you know a word that rhymes with bat?")
- Sing rhyming songs or rhymes (eg. Down by the Bay)
- Write out a story your child tells and reread it together
- Encourage your child to draw and/or write their ideas
- Look at family photos and retell the "story"
- Talk with your child
- Play with your child

Trehearne, M. (2000). Nelson Language Arts. [Scarborough, Ont.]: Nelson Thomson Learning.



Young children are naturally curious and develop a variety of mathematical ideas before they enter Kindergarten. Children make sense of their environment through observations and interactions at home, in daycares, in preschools and in the community. Mathematics learning is embedded in everyday activities, such as playing, reading, beading, baking, storytelling and helping around the home. Activities can contribute to the development of number and spatial sense in children. Curiosity about mathematics is fostered when children are engaged in, and talking about, such activities as comparing quantities, searching for patterns, sorting objects, ordering objects, creating designs and building with blocks. Positive early experiences in mathematics are as critical to child development as are early literacy experiences.

In Kindergarten, we work towards meeting the important goals of mathematics education through allowing children to explore mathematical ideas in play and daily activities in the classroom. To ensure that children experience rich mathematics experiences, mathematics outcomes are connected to a variety of other subject areas. As such, children will have sustained periods of time where they participate in play that supports the development of mathematical concepts of spatial relationships, patterns, data analysis, logical reasoning, number, and operations – all supporting the development of numeracy.

The main goals of mathematics education are to prepare students to:

- use mathematics to interpret our world
- use mathematics to confidently to solve problems
- use qualitative information (information that can be measured and expressed as an amount) to solve problems
- use spatial information (information referring to the physical relationship between objects or people) to solve problems
- communicate and reason mathematically
- appreciate and value mathematics
- commit themselves to lifelong learning
- become mathematically literate adults, using mathematics to contribute to society



HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

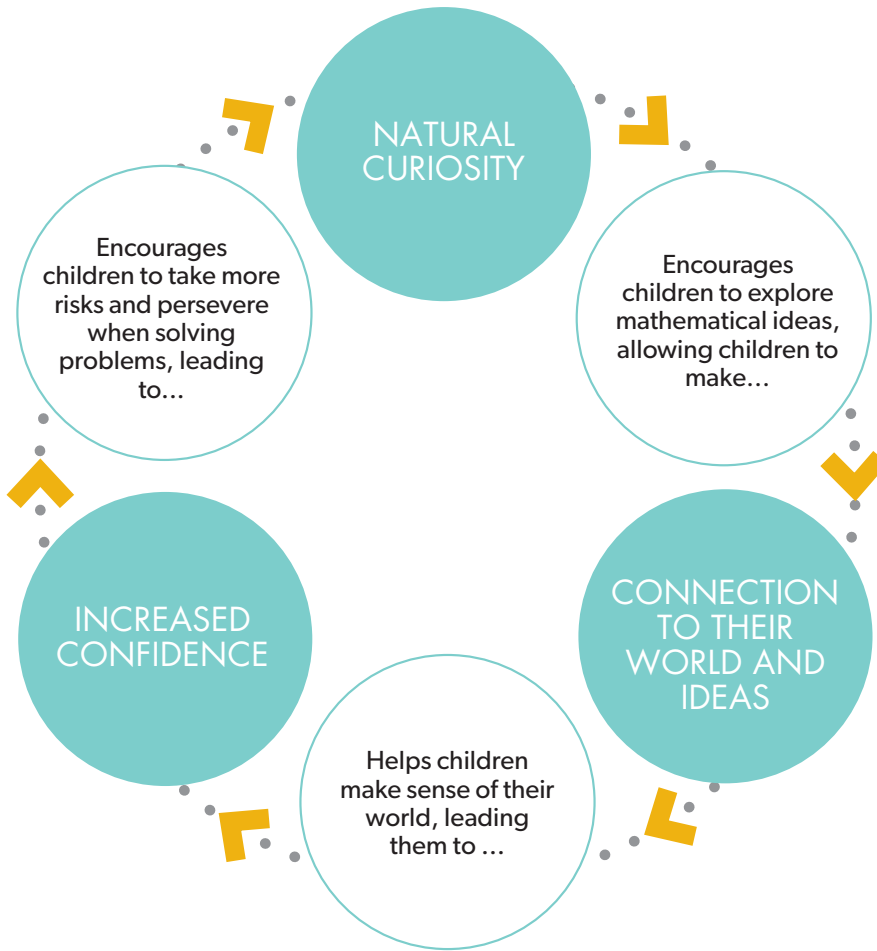
Let your child know that all students can be successful in mathematics. Take advantage of situations where math is used in real life:

- Allow your child opportunities to sort at home – sorting cutlery or socks
- Allow your child to sequence their day. What will happen first? Second?
- Ask your child what patterns they notice in the home
- Talk to your child about money. Allow them to touch and use money

Ask your children to explain their thinking in mathematical situations.

- Ask your child how they know for sure
- Ask your child for different ways to solve the same problem
- Ask your child to show their thinking

Discuss with your child how you use mathematics in daily life. Talk to your child about how mathematics is used in the world, in different careers and around the home.



KINDERGARTEN AT-A-GLANCE

ALBERTA EDUCATION

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.

CITIZENSHIP & 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.

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.

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY AWARENESS

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.

MATHEMATICS

PERSONAL & 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 & 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.

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.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

"In God's Image"

Use the existing special moments and experiences of young children and affirm their religious importance.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



For further information please contact
St. Monica Early Learning Centre at 780 436-7888
www.ecsd.net

