



Kindergarten Orientation

Beddington Heights School
Friday, June 13, 2025



**Calgary Board
of Education**



Acknowledging the Land Where We Gather

Oki, Dadánast'áda, Ába Wathtec, Tānisi, Taanishi, Bonjour, Hello

The Calgary Board of Education acknowledges the traditional territories and oral practices of the Treaty 7 Nations, including the Siksikaitsitapi, comprised of the Siksika, the Kainai, the Piikani, and the Amskapi Piikani Nations. We acknowledge the Tsuut'ina Nation, the ȩyārhe Nakoda, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney Nations, the Métis Nation within Alberta, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of southern Alberta.

This land on which we gather is traditionally known as Moh'kinstsis (Blackfoot), Guts'ists'i (Tsuut'ina), Wichispa (Nakoda), and otōskwanihk (Northern Michif & Cree).

As a learning organization, we are committed to advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action focused on Education for ReconciliACTION.

Agenda



- Welcome to Kindergarten CBE Video
- Learning through PLAY
- Getting ready for kindergarten- tips for parents
- First day of kindergarten
- Enhanced supports in kindergarten
- Important dates & times
- Transportation
- Volunteering at the School

The Calgary Board of Education



- The early years are a time of significant development in a child's life.
- Personalized attention is extremely beneficial to early learners.
- We understand that children bring their own unique talents and gifts to their learning experience.

<https://youtu.be/REXo5ZapcZc>

Mrs. MacPhee

A little about me –I've been teaching Kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 2 for a number of years and I am excited to be teaching the kindergarten program here at Beddington in the fall. Starting kindergarten can be a big change for kiddos, but it can also be a big change for us as parents. My oldest is starting Kindergarten this fall and so I am right there with you in all the feelings, worries and excitement about the routine changes, learning and new experiences.

Learning Through **PLAY**



- Play as a learning **tool**
- Strength based
- Intergrated learning
- Teacher and child initiated and led
- Literacy and numeracy foundations
- Social emotional development
- Encouraging exploration

Children learn through play:

- In kindergarten, children learn by playing with materials, asking questions, and exploring the world around them. We plan activities that help kids talk, count, solve problems, and work together. This way of learning feels fun and natural, while still helping children grow and learn foundational skills.
- The play is intentional and programmed.
- While they are playing, I am watching, listening, and taking notes of what your child is able to do, so I can support and provide the next steps in their learning

Early Literacy, Numeracy, and Assessment



Types of assessment for Kindergarten students:

1. AB ED Assessments (January)
2. Report Cards
 - o January – literacy and math
 - o June – All subjects
3. Ongoing Observations, Anecdotal and Rubrics – PowerSchool

Most of our learning time is spent teaching children early reading, writing, and math skills. We do this through a mix of lessons, learning through play, and working in different groups. Children will learn new words, listen to stories, talk with others, and use their reading, writing, and math skills to solve problems.

We use a program called UFLI to support our literacy instruction. UFLI helps kindergarten students learn to read by teaching them letter sounds, how to put sounds together to make words, and how to read simple words and sentences. It uses clear steps and lots of practice to build early reading skills.

Every Kindergarten student in CBE will have the following assessments: a January and a June report card, Alberta Education assessments completed in January and ongoing observations and completed learning tasks recorded in PowerSchool

Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Building Independence



Put on and zip jacket



Open lunch containers
and water bottle



Put on shoes



No laces!

Building independence by letting your child do every day tasks on their own
- Also using the washroom and washing/drying their hands after

Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Building Independence



Play games



Have conversations



Clean up



Bedtime routines

Building independence by giving opportunities to solve problems, work with others, learn about routines, and take care of the spaces we work and play in
- Children thrive on practiced and repeated routines

Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Building Independence



Summer camps



Calgary Public Library



Swimming



Our playground

Building independence through supporting interactions with other children

Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Building Independence

Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:

- Talk about their feelings i.e. separation anxiety

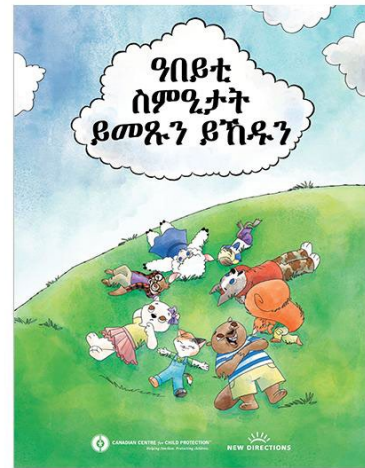
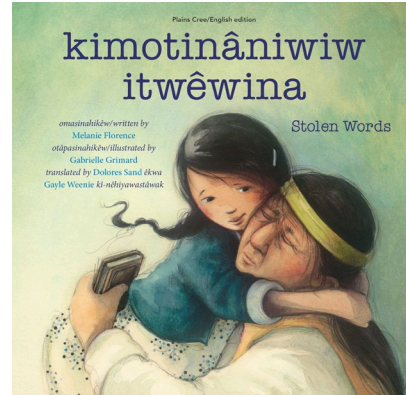
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_5eiYlo1XM



Building independence through acknowledging new/unsettling feelings

- Start building strategies now
- Have conversations, okay feelings, talk about what your child can do when they have that feeling
- Children can bring a small, washable comfort stuffy to school to keep in their backpacks and hug when they miss you
- Feel free to send a family photo that we can laminate and put up on our family wall
- Ensure your child has regular attendance –without regular attendance not only will they miss out on important learning, but routines and expectations take longer to build and its much harder to form those new connections with peers and with your child's teacher
- Jodi Carrington –Will look to you to make sure everything is ok –parents need to remain strong and communicate that they trust the school, and encourage their child.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Building Literacy



- Read every day with your child (make it a routine)
- Read books in your first language
- Talk about the pictures, ask questions together, make it a fun and calming activity with your child
- Read stories together in *your first language* to help your child develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills
- Enjoy reading different types of books: picture books, information books, nursery rhymes, poetry
- Encourage your child to talk about the pictures and stories as you read together
- Visit your community library (when possible)

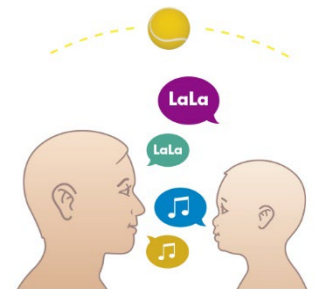
Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Building Oral Language Skills



- Connect with your child about everyday activities
- Praise children for effort and courage
- Talk about how it is okay to make mistakes

Share special activities together, such as walks to the park

- Talk about what you are seeing and doing
- Talk, read, sing and play in *your first language* every day
- Praise children for their efforts and courage to overcome setbacks
- Talk about how it is okay to make mistakes



Getting Ready for Kindergarten: A note on Screen Time



- Screen time can be disruptive
- Moderation is key
- Monitor screen time by planning limits and boundaries with your child



Too many screens (TV, iPad, phone, games, etc) can be disruptive to sleep (later bed times, poor quality), language development, social skill development and ability to stay happy and calm when with peers

Set limits that work for your family, for example, set a timer for 30 minutes after school and maybe allow extra time on the weekends or for special days (1 hour or less per day is recommended)

Remember: You (the parent) are the boss of how much screen time your child has access to. Bringing your child into the conversation about screen time and when/for how long it can happen will help create a predictable routine for your child (and less fights)

First Days of Kindergarten – What to Bring



Change of Clothing

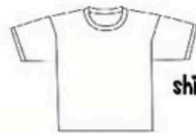
Dear Parents,

Spills and accidents can occur in school. Please send in a complete change of clothing inside the attached bag. Be sure to label the bag with your child's name. Your child's clothes will be stored in the classroom in the event they are needed.

Your child needs:



pants
(no shorts)



shirt



underpants



socks

Thank you 😊

©Dorothy Hest of America



- Full sized backpack
- Sneakers (that they can put on themselves)
- Lunch kit and easy to eat nut free snack
- Non spill water bottle
- Spare change of clothes
 - No school supplies needed
 - Label everything

First Days of Kindergarten



Tuesday, September 2: Staggered Entry with Parents, each group will attend for an hour.

Wednesday, September 3: Staggered Entry without Parents, each group will attend for an hour.

Thursday, September 4: First Full Half Day

Friday, September 5: AM Kindergarten Only

Our first week of school follows a different time schedule each day, so we can provide a calm and safe introduction to school.

Our first day of Kindergarten is Tuesday, September 2, and parents are encouraged to stay with their child to experience a day of Kindergarten with their child. We will make a name card to label our desk, participate in two math activities, listen to a story, and have important paper work for parents to fill. If there is no time, parents and students may eat their snack from home.

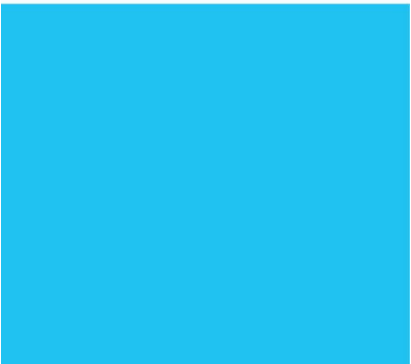
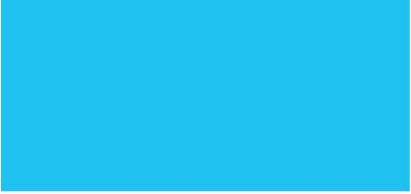
On Wednesday, September 3, only students will be invited into our school and we will start introducing classroom routines, have snack, and explore the playground or in the gym.

Parent/ School Communication



- Contact office if absent. 403-777-6610 press 1 to leave a message on the Absence line
- To contact your Kindergarten teacher, the best method is through e-mail.
- Teachers will share information with parents through weekly email.





Enhanced Supports



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

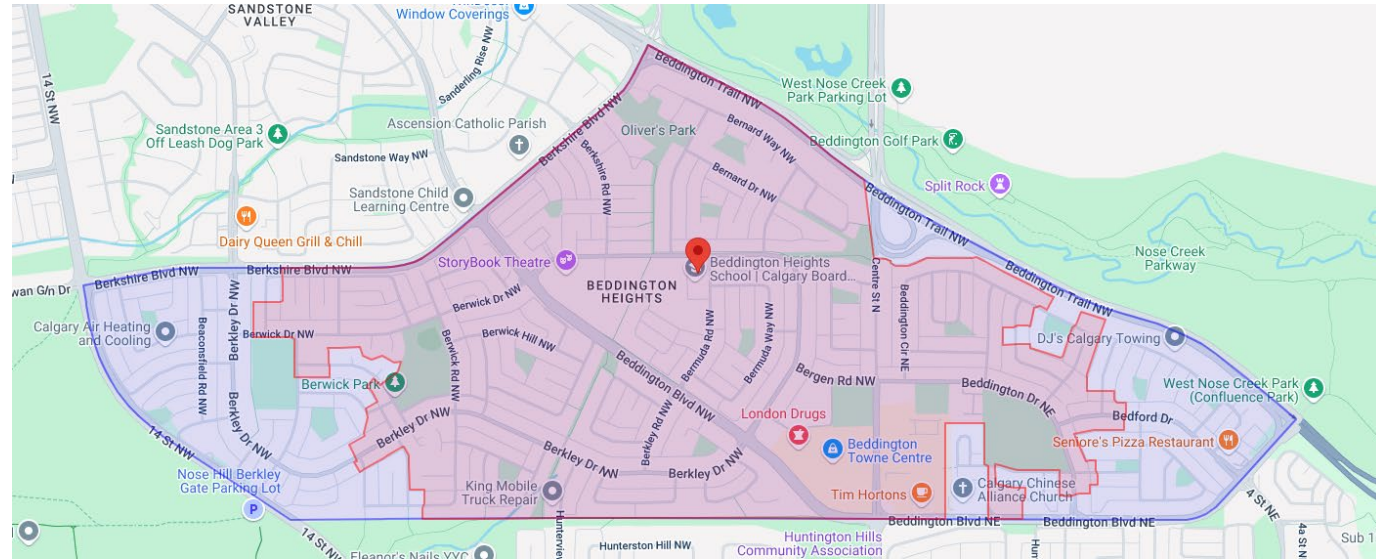
- The classroom teacher is at the centre of your child’s learning team and is supported by a School Learning Team.
- Based on classroom needs, each kindergarten program will also be supported by a Multidisciplinary Team that can sometimes work with large and small groups in the classroom.

This team may consist of:

- Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) | 1 visit/ week based on assessment
- Occupational Therapists (OTs) | Monthly in collaboration with teacher
- Physical Therapists (PTs) | Monthly in collaboration with teacher
- Early Learning Strategist | Collaborates with School Learning Team

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) provides enhanced classroom supports to kindergarten children. Enhanced supports collaborate with teachers to provide support – This is not 1:1 support. Teacher is in charge of all programming including IPPs

Transportation | Bussing



- Students in kindergarten get **one way** transportation
- RED indicates students who are in walk zone.
- Those in the BLUE zone are eligible for bussing
- Families within the walking zone can apply to be conditional riders.



- The cost is \$180.00/year for one-way kindergarten transportation
- You can sign up for bussing through your My CBE Account
- Students within the walk zone can ride the bus, but they have to apply for conditional ridership.

Important Times & Dates



BEDDINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL 2025 – 2026 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR

	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025
August 27, 28, 29	Non-instruction days		
September 1	Labour Day		
September 2	First day of school		
September 29	Non-instruction day		
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation		
October 13	Thanksgiving Day		
October 20	Non-instruction day, Calgary General Election		
November 7	Last day of classes		
November 8-12	Fall Break		
November 13	Classes resume		
November 27	Kindergarten only: no school PT interviews Gr 1-6 PT interviews (evening)		
November 28	Non-instruction day K-6 PT interviews		
December 19	Last day of classes		
Dec 20 - Jan 4	Winter Break		
January 5	Classes resume		
January 30	System Professional Learning Non-instruction day		
February 12, 13	Teachers' Convention		
February 16	Family Day		
February 27	Non-instruction day		
March 19	Last day of classes Kindergarten only: no school PT interviews Gr 1-6 PT interviews (evening)		
March 20	Non-instruction day K-6 PT interviews		
March 21-29	Spring Break		
March 30	Classes resume		
April 3	Good Friday		
April 24	Meełoomsi/Pooktaiks, Professional Learning Non-instruction day		
May 15	Non-instruction day		
May 18	Victoria Day		
June 25	Last day of school - Kindergarten only		
June 26	Last day of school Gr 1-6 Early Dismissal / PM Mask Appeals		
June 29, 30	Non-instruction days		

August 2025	September 2025	October 2025
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November 2025	December 2025	January 2026
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February 2026	March 2026	April 2026
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May 2026	June 2026	July 2026
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Grades 1 – 6 Hours
Monday – Thursday: Start - 8:00 am | Dismissal - 2:35 pm
 Lunch 1: 11:00 am – 11:40 am | Lunch 2: 11:45 am – 12:25 pm | Lunch 3: 12:30 pm – 1:10 pm
 Recess: 15 minutes/day at teacher's discretion
Fridays: Start: 8:00 am | Dismissal: 11:50 pm

Kindergarten Hours
Monday-Thursday: AM Class - 8:00 am - 10:52 am PM Class - 11:43 am - 2:35 pm
Fridays: AM and PM Kinder will alternate attending school on Fridays 8:00 am – 11:50 am.
 Both classes attend on June 19th. No classes for Kindergarten on Nov. 27 & Mar. 19 (Interviews).

Kindergarten Friday Schedule:
AM class Fridays: Sept 5 & 15, Oct 3, 17 & 31, Nov 14, Dec 5 & 19, Jan 16, Feb 6, Mar 6
Apr 10, May 1 & 22, June 5 & 19
PM class Fridays: Sep 12 & 26, Oct 10 & 24, Nov. 7 & 21, Dec 12, Jan 9 & 23, Feb 20, Mar 13
Apr 17, May 8 & 29, June 12 & 19

Kindergarten Times
 Monday- Thursday
 AM: 8:00-10:52
 PM: 11:43-2:35

Friday
 8:00-11:50

**Parents need to accompany their children for pick up and drop off.

Please PICK UP ON TIME

- There is a morning and afternoon kindergarten.
- Students alternate attendance on Fridays

*CBE is not run on a first come first serve basis. It's based on a lottery system that will be decided towards the end of June.

BHS School Council



- Role of School Council
- How to get involved
- [Volunteering](#) at the school

Presented by Brooklyn Shill and Jennifer
Razzo

Additional Resources



The Calgary Public Library offers a special library card to all children in kindergarten. All public library cards and programs are FREE.... We encourage families to check out the Kindergarten Book Bag program and summer activities!



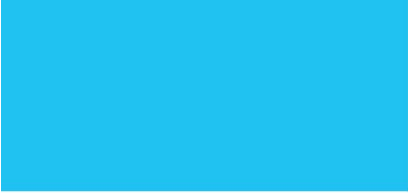
The Calgary Public Library- Top Tips for Kindergarten Readiness*:
<https://calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/kitchen-table-classroom-kindergarten-readiness/>



The Calgary Public Library- Kindergarten Booklist:
https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397_calgarylibrary_kids/1859193_931_books_to_get_ready_for_kindergarten?_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380

I'm Ready for Screens- Parent Resource:
https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/11018/ImReadyForScreens_English

*Developed in collaboration with the CPL, Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School Division



Questions