



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.

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 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 a kindergarten setting, 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?

To be eligible to attend in the 2023/24 school year, children must be five years old on or before December 31, 2023.

How Do I Register?

You may register your child for Kindergarten starting in January 2023. We kindly ask that you please contact your local school to register and make arrangements to provide the following necessary documents:

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

Please note that we would love to meet you and your child in person, but due to the possibility of changing restrictions, our usual practices of hosting information sessions and gatherings may not be able to take place at this time. Your local school will contact you to inform you of any information events that they are hosting.



Registration: <http://www.btps.ca/Registration.php>



Don't forget about transportation..

Transportation

You can register for Transportation services in 3 ways:

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

- *email 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>



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:



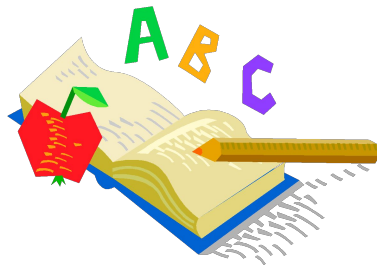
I'm Worried My Child Isn't Ready

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 Early Entrance?



Some young children are eligible for early entrance/ early intervention programming, which is available through *each* Kindergarten 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 6.0 years of age

Early entrance and early intervention programming offers opportunities for full, balanced development of a child's abilities, *AND* maximizes a child's enjoyment and participation in the educational setting, and future school experiences. Placement of the intervention program is either a play/pre-school setting or kindergarten setting.

For more information, please contact the Department of Inclusive Learning 780-806-2046.

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 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 for a complete listing of resources regarding Kindergarten.



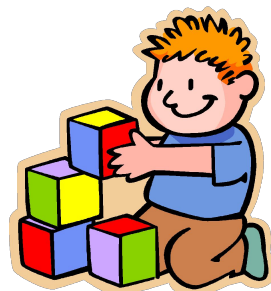
[My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource](#)



[Kindergarten Program Statement: Education.Alberta.ca](http://Education.Alberta.ca)



[Kindergarten At A Glance](#)



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 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

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 14 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. 11 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?

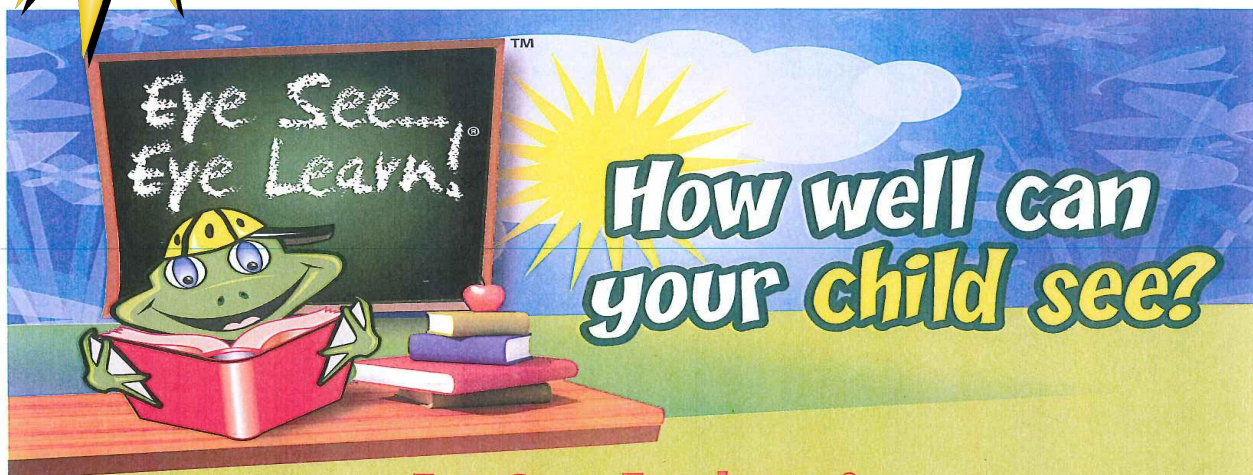
Many schools in BTPS charge school fees and they vary from site to site. Please check with your local school. As well, there may be some cost associated with bussing for some children.

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.

Free!

Eye See... Eye Learn Program



Eye See...Eye Learn®

A free childhood eye health and vision awareness program

Eye See...Eye Learn® is a program that provides AHC-insured eye exams by local Doctors of Optometry and free eyeglasses, if required, to kindergarten children, in partnership with your local school board.

How to Participate

Step 1

Call a local **Eye See...Eye Learn®** Doctor of Optometry to book your child's appointment.

A list of participating optometrists can be found on the Alberta Association of Optometrists' website www.optometrists.ab.ca or call the AAO directly at 1-800-272-8843 ext 232.

Step 2

Take your child in for a comprehensive eye examination. Bring your child's health card.

Eye examinations are covered annually by Alberta Health for children 18 years of age and under. A comprehensive eye examination is painless and non-invasive.

Step 3

Children participating in the **Eye See...Eye Learn®** program are entitled to a free pair of glasses if required.¹

These free eyeglasses are covered by a 1 year manufacturer's warranty.

Vision and Learning

Good vision is an important part of learning.

- 80% of classroom learning is done through the eyes
- 1 in 4 children have some form of vision problem
- Children rarely complain of vision problems, or are even aware of them
- Children with poor vision often find it difficult to focus on their work and may be misdiagnosed as having a learning or behavioural disability
- Good vision is vital to developing skills such as reading, copying and hand-eye coordination

Annual eye examinations can identify health problems and conditions such as a turned or lazy eye. These conditions may be treated successfully if they are found early in a child's life. It is recommended that infants should have their first eye exam at six months of age.

What is an optometrist?

Doctors of Optometry are qualified to provide comprehensive eye exams. They diagnose and treat diseases of the eye, and provide eyeglasses and contact lenses.

¹ No cash value. Only if corrective lenses are required.



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 Alberta Health and Wellness – Healthy Eating and Active Living



Welcome to our School Family!

For further information regarding programming,
please contact us at
(780) 842 - 6144