

SD33 Early Years Programs



Little Songbirds (Birth-2 years) Music and me! (3-5 years)	Music programs for parents and children aged birth-5
StrongStart	Available for children birth to 5 years old, accompanied by a parent or caregiver.
Little Explorers	Available for children birth to 5 years old, accompanied by a parent or caregiver.
Just B4 Preschool	Available for children who are 4-years old and heading into Kindergarten the following year.
Ready, Set, Explore!	Welcoming preschoolers and their families to the school system.
Kindergarten	Welcoming students turning 5 by December 31st
Before & After School Care	Accessible for school aged children (Kindergarten to grade 5)



**Welcome
to Kindergarten**
You Belong Here!



Chilliwack
School District *Partners in Learning!*

Please scan the QR code for more information regarding our Early Years Programming:



Thank you to SD #48 for their booklet inspiration

Welcome

Chilliwack School District is located on the ancestral and unceded territories of the Pilalt, Sema:th and Ts'elxwéyeqw peoples.

In our schools, all children and families belong. Our commitment to inclusion means that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, ability or socioeconomic status is welcomed, valued and celebrated for who they are. We foster safe and nurturing environments in our school where all children can thrive.

We are excited to meet your family and support your child as they transition into school. We hope this pamphlet provides you with helpful information as we welcome your child into Kindergarten.



~Éy Kw'as émi~ 

Welcome, it is good that you are here!

Supplies

For Kindergarten, your child will need to have a backpack that is large enough to fit some library books, and a lunch kit inside. It is helpful if it has an outside pocket to store a water bottle daily. A clean pair of inside shoes are also needed for the classroom.

Your child will most likely also need a spare set of clothes at school for wet or muddy days or occasional bathroom accidents.

More information will be available from your school regarding additional classroom supplies or school supply fees for shared Kindergarten supplies.

School Information

Once registered for Kindergarten, you can expect to hear from your child's school regarding details about Kindergarten by the end of June. You will receive a schedule for a gradual entry to Kindergarten. This gradual start allows children to connect with their teacher, become familiar with the school environment, and learn routines at an age appropriate pace. Teachers and school staff often use these first two weeks of Kindergarten to get to know students in order to make thoughtful, balanced class placements.



All Weather Play

Playing outside in all types of weather is essential for children's physical and emotional development. It encourages them to explore their environment, engage in physical activity, and develop resilience as they learn to adapt to different conditions.

By dressing your child appropriately for the weather, you can help

ensure they stay comfortable and have fun outside, allowing them to fully enjoy their outdoor experiences regardless of the elements.

Rain pants or rain suits, boots and waterproof jackets with hoods are recommended to help keep students happy and dry.



Feeding Futures

Our Feeding Futures program aims to nourish children at school, supporting both their health and learning outcomes. Through partnerships with community organizations, we offer various initiatives, including breakfast programs, the Bowls of Hope lunch program, the Fresh Fast Snack Cart, and the Starfish backpack programs.

These resources are available to families who may need them.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration opens October 1st. Please register by visiting:

<https://sd33.bc.ca/registration>

To register you will need:

- **Proof of residency (i.e. driver's license, telephone/hydro bill or other documentation with street address)**
- **Student's birth certificate**
- **Student's BC Services Card**
- **Proof of status in Canada (if applicable)**
- **Legal documentation involving guardianship (if applicable)**

*Requests for non-catchment school attendance will be considered based on space availability. **Families must register at their catchment school and then indicate their school of choice.***

We kindly encourage families to register for kindergarten as early as possible to ensure a place at their catchment school and to avoid the possibility of being placed on a waitlist.



Learning Through Play

In kindergarten children will engage their bodies, minds, and hearts in the learning process. We recognize the diverse needs of young learners, acknowledging that each child is unique and learns in various ways and at different paces.

Play is a crucial component of children's healthy development and learning. It allows them to gain a deeper understanding of their environment and make sense of the world around them.

Play At Home

Some ways to foster learning through play at home together:

- **Physical Play:** running, jumping, skipping, climbing
- **Constructive Play:** puzzles, blocks, forts, towers, trains/cars
- **Pretend Play:** dress up, role play, storytelling, imaginative
- **Sensory Play:** sand, water, rice
- **Exploratory Play:** nature walks, hikes, scavenger hunts
- **Independent Play:** drawing, coloring, crafts, reading
- **Fine Motor:** beads, playdough, cutting, lacing
- **Numbers:** Dice games, card games, board games
- **Musical Play:** singing, dancing, nursery rhymes

Children learn as
they play.
More importantly, in
play, children learn
how to learn.

Fred Donaldson



Helping Children Flourish

Ways to help your child flourish during the transition to Kindergarten:

- Ensure they are well rested (9-10 hours of sleep)
- Start the day off with nutritious breakfast to fuel their day
- Spend 1 hour or less on *parental controlled screens* (tv, tablet, video games, etc)
- Encourage your child to learn and try new things
- Help them understand that mistakes are part of the learning process
- Support your child as they learn to solve problems in peaceful ways
- Help your child feel pride in who they are by sharing your language and culture
- Enjoy time outdoors on the land and in nature with your child in all types of weather

