



early years



We are all connected...

Playing our Way to K

We are excited to welcome your child to Kindergarten in K'wásktáknéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw, SD83!

The time before Kindergarten is about continuing to grow, explore, and build confidence through everyday experiences, relationships, and play. We know that children develop in their own ways, at their own pace and each child brings their unique strengths, gifts, experiences, culture, and ways of learning.

As your child's first and most important teacher, we invite you to notice and celebrate what your child is beginning to do, and explore the ideas shared here as ways to support their growth and development together as you move toward Kindergarten.

Every child is capable, unique, and full of potential

Your Child May be Beginning to...

Growing Well-Being & Belonging



- Spend short times away from you and build trust with others
- Tell about how they feel, and care about how others feel
- Play and get along with others, share, and take turns
- Develop confidence in trying new things
- Take care of their bodies with more independence (dressing, eating, and toileting)

Ways to Support their Growth & Development...

- Talk about feelings and how to share them, show how our words and actions affect others
- Spend time together in ways that reflect your family's culture and traditions
- Create opportunities for your child to play, rest, eat, and move
- Offer comfort, encouragement, and time to try things by themselves (children need lots of practice!)
- Practice new skills in a fun way, make it a game, sing a song, use stories, pictures, and simple step-by-step reminders

Exploring the World through Play



- Show curiosity and ask questions about the world
- Move their body in many ways (running, climbing, dancing)
- Use their senses to explore indoors and outdoors
- Experiment with sorting, building, organizing, and counting
- Use their imagination and creativity

- Follow your child's interests and wondering alongside them
- Provide time and space for play every day
- Explore nature together in parks, neighbourhoods, and local places (like their future school)
- Notice the seasons, play with snow, water, dirt, sand, and sticks, and stones
- Offer open-ended materials (blocks, loose parts, art supplies)



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Your Child May be Beginning to...

Communicating & Making Meaning



- Share ideas through talking, drawing, building, or movement
- Enjoy stories, songs, and conversations
- Recognize symbols like pictures, letters, or numbers (especially in their name)
- Communicate clearly enough for others to understand
- Follow simple routines, schedules, and instructions

Ways to Support their Growth & Development...

- Talk, listen, and respond to your child every day
- Read, sing, make up rhymes, and tell stories in your home language(s)
- Encourage drawing, mark-making, creative expression, and pretend play
- Take turns in conversation and wondering together
- Turn routines and instructions into playful games, like Simon Says, Follow the Leader, or following simple cooking recipes
- Show them about technology and help them by setting limits

Building a Strong Sense of Identity



- Take pride in who they are and where they come from, share songs, stories, and rhymes
- Show interest in helping others and being part of a group
- Learn about and care for the land, plants, and animals
- Understand that people have different ideas about the world and ways of celebrating, and that's ok

- Share family stories, languages, and cultural traditions
- Encourage kindness, care, and responsibility in everyday routines (e.g., helping family, friends and community, recycling, composting, and growing food)
- Offer closed choices and invite your child into decision-making
- Read books with them about children that are both similar and different
- Spend time in places within your community and beyond



Visit our website to learn more:
<https://www.sd83.bc.ca/early-learners-0-5-years->

Questions about Kindergarten?
Please contact your school principal or
Allison de Boer, adeboer@sd83.bc.ca