



early years



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Kindergarten Gradual Entry *Frequently Asked Questions*

What is gradual entry?

Kindergarten Gradual Entry is a developmental model of transition planning emphasizing the interconnected relationships among the child, teachers, family, peers and community that are developed across time (Pifiata & Kraft-Sayre, 2003).

In September, Kindergarten students are welcomed into school through the gradual entry model where students attend in small groups and/or for shorter periods of time, building towards full days over the first few weeks.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has strategically allowed for fewer minutes of instruction in Kindergarten, which supports the gradual entry process.

Why is it valuable?

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting milestone and an important transition for children and families. Children have the most successful start to school when they are given time to build relationships, become familiar with their new environment, and adjust to new routines over time.

Gradual entry helps children:

- Feel safe, welcome, and connected at school
- Build positive relationships with their teacher and classmates
- Reduce feelings of worry or overwhelm
- Develop confidence and independence
- Settle into classroom routines and expectations

Gradual entry gives children and teachers the gift of time. During these first days, children have opportunities to connect with their teacher in smaller groups, explore their new learning environment, and adjust to the social and emotional changes that come with starting school. This personalized approach helps every child feel comfortable, valued, and ready to become an important member of their school community.



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What if my child was in full-time child care before Kindergarten?

Even children who have been in full-time child care will be entering a completely new environment.

Kindergarten involves

- new adults
- new peers
- different routines
- larger groups
- different spaces (classrooms, gyms, libraries, music rooms, bathrooms, playgrounds, etc.)
- increased independence
- different schedules (e.g., start time, recess, lunch, dismissal, special classes like library, music, gym, etc.)

Regardless of previous child care experience, transitions can be challenging and all children benefit from opportunities to build relationships and become familiar with their new setting gradually.

What is the Gradual Entry Schedule?

Kindergarten gradual entry begins on Thursday, September 10, 2026, and continues until Friday, September 18, 2026. You will be contacted by your child's school regarding the specific times for your child's gradual entry before the start of school. Full-day Kindergarten begins on Tuesday, September 22, 2026.

Please note that for Kindergarten students, bussing services begin on the first full-day, Tuesday, September 22, 2026. For bussing information, or to register, please visit our [Bus Transportation website](https://www.sd83.bc.ca/school-bus-transportation) (<https://www.sd83.bc.ca/school-bus-transportation>)



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

Questions about Kindergarten?
Please contact your [school principal](#) or
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