

Welcome to Brookside Kindergarten



Kindergarten Handbook 2022-2023

5504 - 143 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 4E5
780-434-0464

E-mail: brookside@epsb.ca
Website: <http://brookside.epsb.ca>

June 2022

Dear Parents:

This booklet has been written to introduce you to the Kindergarten program at Brookside School. We hope it will answer many of the questions you might have regarding this important first year in school.

It is indeed a privilege to spend days watching children grow, learn and develop. Children bring with them a unique curiosity, energy and zest for life. We believe it is our role to provide an environment that facilitates the best possible place to grow and learn. An environment that is trusting, caring and encouraging will enable each child to feel comfortable enough to take risks in their learning, enabling each one to reach their potential. Each child is unique with their own set of background experiences, interests, characteristics and abilities. We feel privileged to get to know each of our new students and can't wait to watch them grow!

Here is to a year filled with happy days and positive experiences!

Regards,
Marilee MacDonald and Janine Taylor



Kindergarten Registration

Children who are five years of age on or before December 31, 2022, may register in Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. The school office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Kindergarten Fees and Supplies

Kindergarten fees this year will be used to purchase Kanga pouches, special school art supplies and Fieldtrips. The complete supply list can be found on SchoolZone and supplies are to be sent with your child on their first day of Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Program Statement

The *Kindergarten Program Statement* describes the learning achievements that will help prepare children for entry into Grade 1 and provide a foundation for later success.

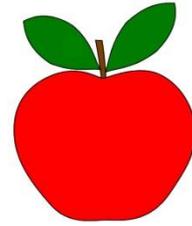
Young children begin learning in a variety of environments - in their homes, in day care programs, and in the community. Children arrive in kindergarten from diverse backgrounds and with a variety of experiences. Some children have already begun developing some of the learning described in this statement.

The *Kindergarten Program Statement* is based on the following beliefs relating to young children, their learning, and home and community environments.

- ◆ Children develop through similar stages but at individual rates, and the kindergarten program provides learning experiences that meet the individual and group needs interests and developmental levels. Additional support is provided to children with special needs to help them increase their potential for learning.
- ◆ Young children are naturally curious and eager to learn, and they benefit from developing positive relationships with others, including children of their own age. The kindergarten program provides opportunities for children to learn about their environment through organized activities, purposeful play and cooperation with others.
- ◆ Parents are their children's first and most important teachers and play a central role in the lives of their children. The program supports and respects the dignity and worth of the family and encourages parents to participate in their children's education.
- ◆ The kindergarten program plays a role in the coordination of community services for young children and their families.

Clear expectations in seven learning areas are described in the **Kindergarten Program Statement**. They meet the social, physical, intellectual, cultural, creative and emotional needs of young children and provide a foundation for elementary schooling:

- ◆ Early Literacy
- ◆ Early Numeracy
- ◆ Community and Environmental Awareness
- ◆ Personal and Social Responsibility
- ◆ Physical Skills and Well-being
- ◆ Creative and Cultural Expression
- ◆ Citizenship and Identity



The expectations of the seven learning areas are interrelated. Young children learn in an integrated way during instructional activities and many of these will be achieved at the same time. Children accomplish learning not only in the kindergarten program, but also in their homes and communities.

Kindergarten Curriculum Highlights

❖ **Early Literacy**

Children develop language skills by enjoying and sharing many different types of books, stories, poems, recordings and videos. They learn to predict what happens next in a story and to ask questions about their reading, listening and viewing. They express their ideas and experiences through talking and through pictures, letters or words. Children are able to recognize copy and write familiar words and letters.



❖ **Early Numeracy**

Children explore number, patterns and space through daily experiences. They demonstrate awareness of addition and subtraction, and measurement by matching, counting, describing and comparing familiar materials. They sort, classify and build real-world objects, and learn to organize information related to their world.

In kindergarten, children begin to develop problem-solving skills that they will continue to expand and refine throughout their schooling.

❖ **Community and Environmental Awareness**

This area focuses on the early learning in science and social studies.

Children use their senses to explore, investigate and describe their environment. They recognize similarities and differences in living things, objects and materials. Using simple tools in a safe and appropriate manner, they select and work with a variety of materials to build structures. They explore scientific concepts using sand, water, blocks and other materials.

Children become aware of similarities and differences between themselves and others by describing feelings, special interests, events and experiences shared with family and friends. They learn about special places and people who help in the community and role-play familiar situations, such as the store, home or school.

❖ **Personal and Social Responsibility**

This area focuses on personal and social management skills necessary for effective learning across all subject areas. Development of these skills takes time and occurs at different rates as a result of each child's experiences. In the kindergarten program, children begin to develop and practise skills that they will continue to enhance throughout their lives.

By participating actively in learning tasks, trying new things and taking risks, children see themselves as capable of learning. Children are curious and learn to adapt to new situations. They begin to accept rules and deal with routines in a school environment. They learn to take responsibility for selecting and completing learning activities.

❖ **Physical Skills and Well-being**

This area focuses on the early learning in health and physical education.

By becoming aware of healthy food choices, learning to observe safety rules and participating in physical activities, children practise behaviours that promote a healthy lifestyle.

Through games and activities, using equipment, such as balls, beanbags and hoops, children develop coordinated movement, balance and stability. Children develop finger and hand precision and dexterity by using objects, such as beads, blocks and puzzles.

❖ **Creative and Cultural Expression**

This area focuses on the early learning in art, music and drama.

Children explore and express their thoughts and feelings in many ways through the use of language, sound, colour, shape, and movement. They join in poems, songs, and action verses, and share their family traditions and celebrations.



© BNP Design Studio * www.ClipartOf.com/1052251

❖ **Citizenship and Identity**

This area focuses on the skills and processes of critical and creative thinking, decision making and problem-solving, as well as cooperation and conflict resolution.

Kindergarten students will experience opportunities to develop attitudes, skills, and knowledge that will enable them to become engaged, active, informed and responsible citizens, both locally and globally.

Brookside Kindergarten Logistics



Arrival: Kindergarten students will line up outside on the sidewalk at the **front doors** of the school. They will be picked up by their teacher at the bell and brought through the front entrance. The children's outdoor footwear will be placed on the boot racks labeled near the front doors.

Dismissal: All of the Kindergarten children will be dismissed at the **front doors** of the school. For the safety of your child, it is important that we know who they are

going home with. If there will be someone other than yourself coming for pick up, please inform the office and/or Mrs. Taylor and Ms. MacDonald

Recess: The Kindergarten students will be having outside time each day for 15 minutes. Kindergarten will be having their recess right before dismissal in order to help minimize the amount of "dressing" time. Therefore, the students will bring their backpacks outside with them and when the bell rings, we will walk them around to the front of the school where you will meet them.

Snack: The Kindergarten children will eat a snack together each day during center time. Please provide your child with a nutritious snack such as fruits (whole or cut-up), applesauce, yogurt, cheese and crackers, veggies with or without dip, muffins or granola bars. Also, please send a water bottle (labelled with your child's name) to school. Please avoid sending junk food, e.g. chocolate bars, chips, pop, etc and any foods containing peanuts due to severe allergies in the school.

Footwear: Suitable footwear should be worn according to weather conditions. All students are asked to remove outdoor footwear at the entrances. Shoes are to be worn at all times in the building, including volunteers. This is not only for health reasons, but to accommodate fire drills which may occur at any time. A pair of LABELLED running shoes should be left at school for indoor use only. Students need to be able to get in and out of them without assistance. Velcro runners are recommended- please do not send shoes with shoelaces.

A Typical Day in Kindergarten

8:30 a.m./ 12:15 p.m Arrival and Attendance

Most days in kindergarten we will have the following components:

- Calendar, weather, poems, songs, stories
- Literacy Learning/Math Learning
- Teacher/student directed learning
- Whole group and small group activities
- Snack time/ Centre time
-

11:10 a.m. / 3:00 p.m. Clean up, prepare for home, review activities, RECESS

11:30 a.m. / 3:20 p.m. Dismissal

*****Early dismissal Thursdays- 2:35 p.m.**

Physical Education classes: The kindergarten students will be going to the gym twice a week for 30 minutes each time.

Art: The Kindergarten students will participate in many Art opportunities throughout the week. However, one 30 minute directed Art lesson will be given weekly.

Music: The Kindergarten students will have one 30 minute music class each week with our Music specialist.

Library: The Kindergarten students will visit the library once a week. They will receive a story with the librarian, Mrs. Look and then choose books to take home.

Learning through Play

Children learn best in a relaxed, non-threatening environment. They learn best when they are self-motivated and interested in the activity. They learn best in a natural way through play discovery and experimentation. Play is a child's work!

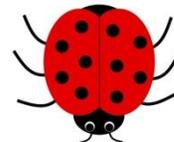


Centres

Learning centres are areas where carefully selected equipment and materials are set up to provide a range of experiences for students. They are used to introduce, reinforce and enrich the learning of concepts and skills. They support and extend curriculum activities and allow the opportunity for self-directed learning. This is a time when we can observe and guide children individually and as members of small groups. It is a time when children have the opportunity to be independent, interdependent and creative as they engage in learning activities.



Thematic Units



The Kindergarten program addresses the curriculum through a thematic units based on areas of interest and inquiry. The THEMES become a vehicle for acquiring skills, knowledge and attitudes. Each area of focus addresses the expectations of the curriculum and will incorporate literacy, math, science, songs, rhymes, games, and other activities.

Kindergarten Themes 2022-2023:

ALL ABOUT ME, COLORS OF FALL, HERE COMES WINTER, CELEBRATIONS, BEARS, HEALTHY and LOVING HEARTS, BLOOMING IN SPRING, LETS GET BUGGY, STAYING SAFE

Other Information:

SchoolZone

What is SchoolZone? SchoolZone is an information system developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It provides parents and students with secure access to school and student information and is designed to enhance the relationship between school and home. Using portal technology and the convenience of the Internet, it is available any time and any place. SchoolZone provides online access to daily homework assignments and class news from participating classroom teachers, gathered together in a convenient calendar format. By accessing the site, parents will have timely access to information and help them be more actively involved in their children's academic success. Students have access to a valuable organizational tool to help them plan their time. As well, you can find attendance records, newsletters, progress reports, district events, achievement results, and access to selected online educational resources.

Illness and Absences

Brookside School has a Student Absentee Check Program. The program is intended to ensure your child has arrived at school. Please e-mail brookside@epsb.ca or call 780.434.0464 to report if your child will be late or absent. If a student is absent from class, a phone call is made home to the parent to make sure that the child is at home.

Emergency Message System

Edmonton Public Schools has a [new emergency message system](#) (Feb-18) that will contact you when there's a [major emergency](#) at our school, like a fire or lockdown. Most emergencies don't last long, but when they do-you need to know. The system will always call you when there's a major incident, but we need your permission to contact you by text. [To sign up](#) to receive emergency text messages, text 'Y' or 'Yes' to 978338.

Marking Clothing

Please label with the child's full name all clothing, boots, book bags and other supplies. It is impossible to locate misplaced or lost belongings unless they are clearly labelled. **Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.**

Other communication

The kindergarten teachers will communicate through email, schoolzone and our Google classroom. Please ensure that your email address is updated with the teachers and the office.





IMPORTANT DATES TO START OUR YEAR

September 1st/2nd Home Visits with Ms. MacDonald

September 5 Labour day- no school

September 6/7th Staggered Entry days for Kindergarten

September 7th "Meet the Teacher" night

September 8th All Kinders to attend together

October 10 Thanksgiving Day Holiday

All I ever really needed to know I learned in Kindergarten

By Robert Fulghum



Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be. I learned in Kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things I learned: share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all - the whole world - had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true; no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

