



Calgary Board of Education

The Traditional Learning Centre Program

Frequently Asked Questions Kindergarten



The Traditional Learning Centre uses teacher-directed instruction and character education to foster reflective thinking, continuous learning and responsible citizenship. It is a celebration of cultural diversity and commonly held values. The virtues-oriented school environment prepares students to meet the moral, technological and global challenges of the 21st century.

What is the Traditional Learning Centre?

The Traditional Learning Centre is a teacher-directed, knowledge-based program. There is a dual emphasis on academic rigour and character education.

What is character education?

The three pillars of character education are respect for self, others and the environment. Each month a different virtue is emphasized. The focus is on commonly held values shared by all cultures such as responsibility, perseverance, love, compassion, friendliness, and honesty.

What is teacher-directed instruction?

Desks are separated into rows facing the board. The teacher stands at the front of the room and directly instructs the whole class. Students participate through multi-sensory responses including speaking, listening, viewing, reading, questioning, and writing.

What does this look like in Kindergarten?

Students often work in desks facing the board. Foundational skills such as phonics, reading, writing, and math are taught in a formal, sequenced manner. Lessons are carefully structured to guide students through concepts. By the end of the year students will know 26 graphemes and be able to read and write simple sentences. While the content is academic, teachers strive to make instruction interesting, creative and meaningful for the students. Art, music, gym, centres and story time are part of the program.

How is this different from other schools?

This is a program of choice; it is not a designated neighbourhood school. Kindergarten looks like a half day of Grade 1 complete with desks and up to half-hour of daily homework.

What about ESL students?

ESL students who fit the student profile do well in this program because it is structured, sequenced, and uses explicit phonics. Small group assistance is provided as needed.

Are there entrance requirements?

No, however, TLC Kindergarten is of greatest benefit to a student who can work well in a teacher directed, whole class instruction situation. A checklist is provided with the application that addresses readiness skills such as personal hygiene, the ability to focus, and a desire to learn.

What about students with attention problems?

Because whole group instruction requires concentration, a student must be able to sit still, listen, look at the teacher, remain quiet and keep his hands to himself. If a child consistently requires reminders it may indicate that this program is not a good fit.

Will my child automatically be accepted in Grade 1?

During kindergarten the teacher will be observing for academic or behavioural concerns. If your child is not experiencing success, we look for remedies within the school. In extreme cases, the school will work to help parents find an alternate placement for the following year.

What about parent involvement?

School Council meets monthly. Parents can also be involved in the library, office and classroom, depending on the needs of the teacher. All volunteers fill in a form and agree to a police check. **The primary responsibility of the parent is to monitor the child's learning and communicate with the school through the agenda and daily homework.**

Are there any other costs? Busing?

Currently all students living outside the walk zone are bussed for a fee. Schools may have limited transportation service, and parents are responsible to ensure their children travel safely to and from congregated stops. Congregated stops may not be located in each residential district or within walking distance for students. Congregated stops are located based on factors such as ease of access for the bus, public space for students to gather and available parking for parents. Requests to add or move congregated stops will not be considered.

School Sites

Please refer to website for school locations:
<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/programs/Choices/prog-tlc.asp>