

Supporting the Transition from EDC Preschool to Kindergarten



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Presentation By:



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Our topics are:



- How is my child's transition to kindergarten supported?
- What information is shared in a transition meeting?
- How are EDC and kindergarten alike?
- How are EDC and kindergarten different?
- How will my child be supported in kindergarten?
- What is a multidisciplinary team?
- Can my child go into a specialized kindergarten program?
- How can I prepare my child for kindergarten?
- Can my child access busing?

How is my child's transition from EDC to kindergarten supported?



- We communicated with your child's new school to let them know to expect your child.
- We organized an in-person observation and a transition meeting for children whose needs are difficult to capture in their Individual Program Plan (IPP).
- We will share your child's file which contains the following key documents:
 - Individual Program Plan
 - Assessment reports
 - Year-End Assessment report by the EDC Multidisciplinary Team

Who attends the transition meeting and what information is shared?



- Attended by:
 - Your child's EDC teacher.
 - A member of receiving school for Kindergarten.
 - Sometimes an Early Learning Strategist.
- Information shared about your child includes their:
 - Individual Program Plan:
 - Conditions that help them be successful.
 - Goals being worked on and the strategies being used.
 - Key understandings about any health or safety concerns.
 - Basic communication skills; how they communicate to meet their needs and wants.
 - Areas of strength.
 - Areas for continued growth.
 - Likes and dislikes.
 - Effective strategies for supporting your child to be successful.

How are EDC and kindergarten alike?



- They are both play-based programs.
- They both have similar routines (arrival & dismissal, bathroom and snack routines, Circle Time, Centre Time, Free Play, Music & Physical Education).
- They both have support of a multi-disciplinary team support.

How are EDC and kindergarten different?



- In EDC there are 12 or fewer children with 3 educators.
- In kindergarten, there will be many more children with 1 teacher who may or may not have the support of an Educational Assistant.
- In EDC, a team of SLP, OT and PT is assigned to the program. In Kindergarten, SLPs, OTs and PTs are assigned to multiple classes and schools.
- The program schedule will be different.
- There is no transportation in EDC, some schools offer transportation for kindergarten.

How will my child be supported in kindergarten?



The classroom teacher is at the centre of your child's learning team and is supported by a school learning team. Based on classroom needs, each kindergarten program will also be supported by a multidisciplinary team (see Slide 9) that works with large and small groups in the classroom.

What is a multidisciplinary team?



- It is a team of professionals who provide additional support and collaborate with the teacher around programming.
- This team may consist of:
 - Education Assistant/Early Childhood Practitioner
 - Early Learning Strategist
 - Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)
 - Occupational Therapist (OT)
 - Physiotherapist (PT)
 - Behaviour Support Worker (BSW)
 - School Family Liaison (SFL)
 - Psychologist

Can my child go into a specialized kindergarten program?



- There are no specialized kindergarten classes within the CBE.
- The CBE believes in inclusion.
- All children can learn and participate in the play-based kindergarten program.

How can I prepare my child for kindergarten?



Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:

- Dress themselves (zippers, buttons).
- Use the bathroom and wash their hands on their own.
- Put away toys and help in other small ways at home.
- Practice opening and closing snack containers and using a water bottle.
- Play games, take turns and compromise.
- Develop a consistent bedtime and morning routine.

How can I prepare my child for kindergarten?



Read to your child every day:

- Read stories together in *your first language* to help your child develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills.
- Enjoy reading different types of books: picture books, information books, nursery rhymes, poetry.
- Encourage your child to talk about the pictures and stories as you read together.
- Visit your community library (when possible).

How can I prepare my child for kindergarten?



- Take time to talk with your child about everyday activities:
 - Share special activities together, such as walks to the park.
 - Talk about what you are seeing and doing.
 - Talk, read, sing and play in *your first language* every day.
 - Praise children for their efforts and courage to overcome setbacks.
 - Talk about how it is okay to make mistakes. Mistakes are a natural part of learning!

How can I prepare my child for kindergarten?



- Help your child become familiar with their new school by:
 - Visiting the playground.
 - Take a walk around the school.
 - Talk about what you are seeing and doing while visiting the school grounds and playground.
 - Take a photo of your child in front of the school and at the playground.
 - Talk about the fun things your child will do in kindergarten.

Will my child have access to the school bus?



- Some schools offer busing but not all schools. If you are unsure, you can call your child's new school to ask or visit the school's website.
- For your designated school:
 - You need to live more than 2.4 km from the school.
 - The bus stop will be within 1.6 km of home.
- Alternative program schools:
 - Will have congregated bus stops.
- Half day kindergarten- busing one way only.
- Deadline to register-June 8th
- More questions:
 - Contact Transportation at:
 - t | [403-817-7433](tel:403-817-7433)
 - e | transportation@cbe.ab.ca



Thank you for viewing our presentation!



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