



Kindergarten Parent Orientation

Elbow Park School 2023-24



Calgary Board
of Education

Agenda



- Parent Council & Society
- Registration (www.cbe.ab.ca/elbowpark)
- Learning through *PLAY*
- Enhanced supports in kindergarten
- Getting ready for kindergarten- tips for parents
- Important dates & times
- First day of Kindergarten
- Additional Resources
- Questions & Answers

The Calgary Board of Education



The early years are a time of significant development in a child's life. Personalized attention is extremely beneficial to early learners.

At the Calgary Board of Education, we understand that children bring their own unique talents and gifts to their learning experience. Our dedicated staff know how to help children reach their full potential.

Learning Through **PLAY**

More than just skill building or practicing for the world we will grow into, play is the primary way which children manipulate new information, fit it into existing schema or create new ones and then adjust their understanding accordingly.



formulating **hypothesis**

engaging in experimentation and exploration

discovering patterns

creating **theories**

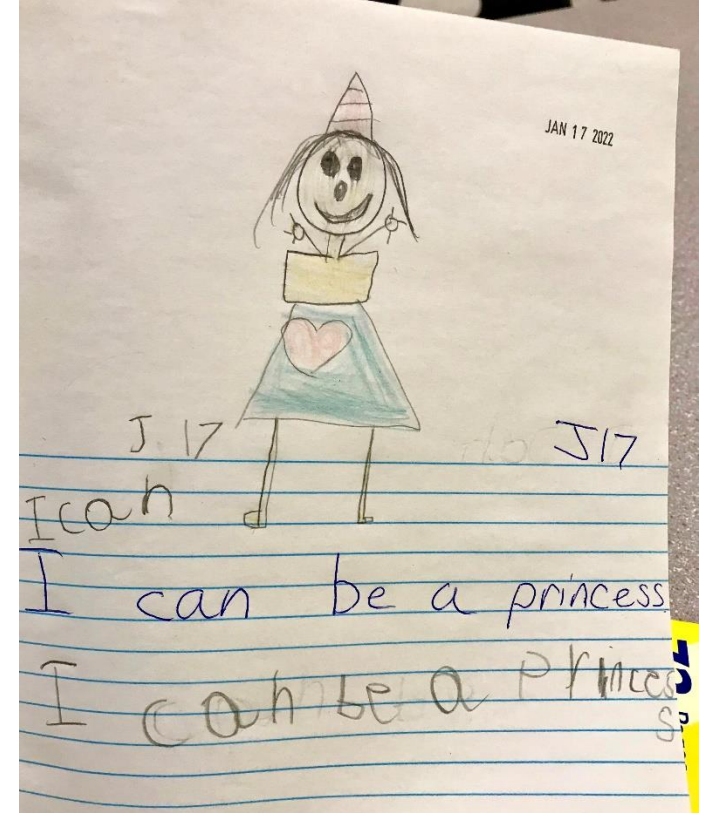
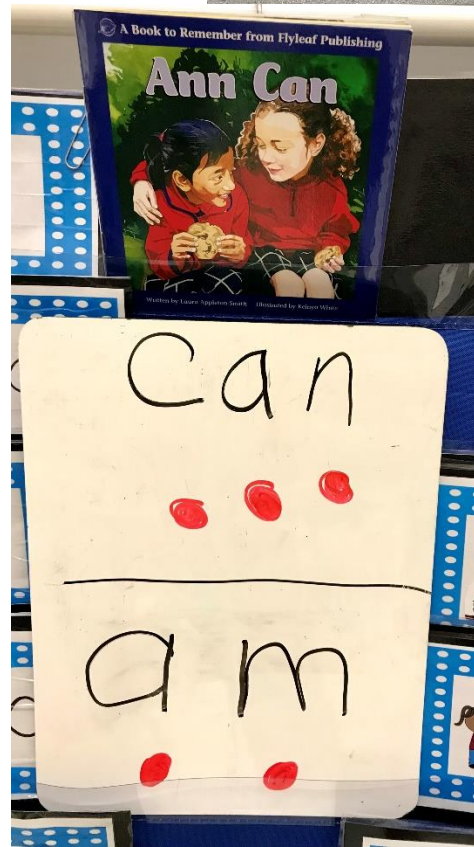
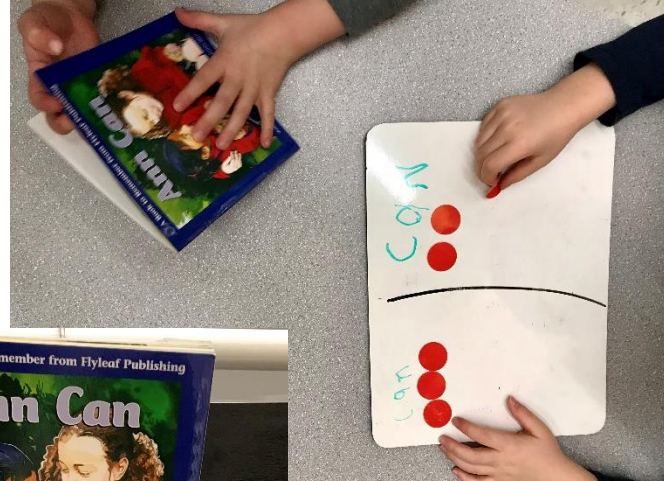
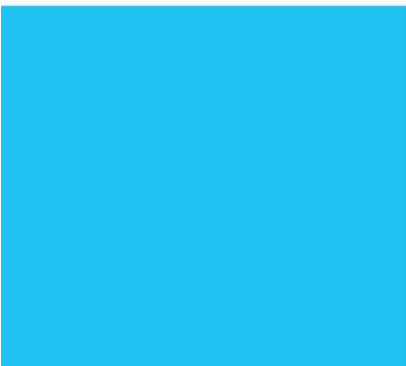
Learning Through PLAY

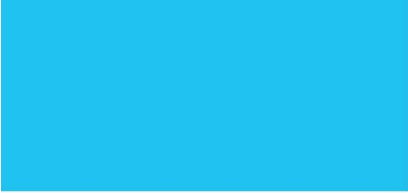


“Research shows that children who engage in complex forms of socio-dramatic play have greater language skills than non-players, better social skills, more empathy, more imagination, and more of the subtle capacity to know what others mean. They are less aggressive and show more self-control and higher levels of thinking”

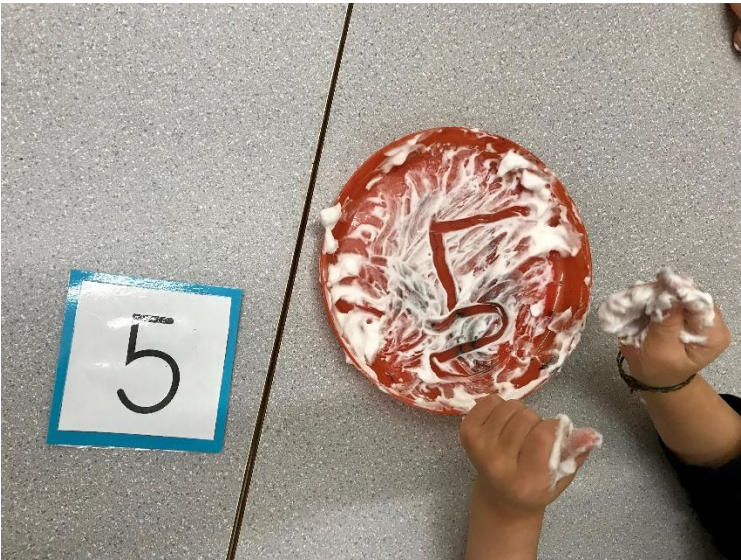
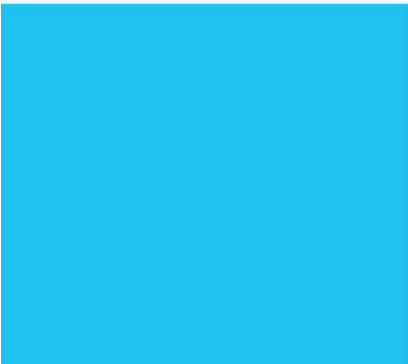
~Miller & Almon

Early Literacy

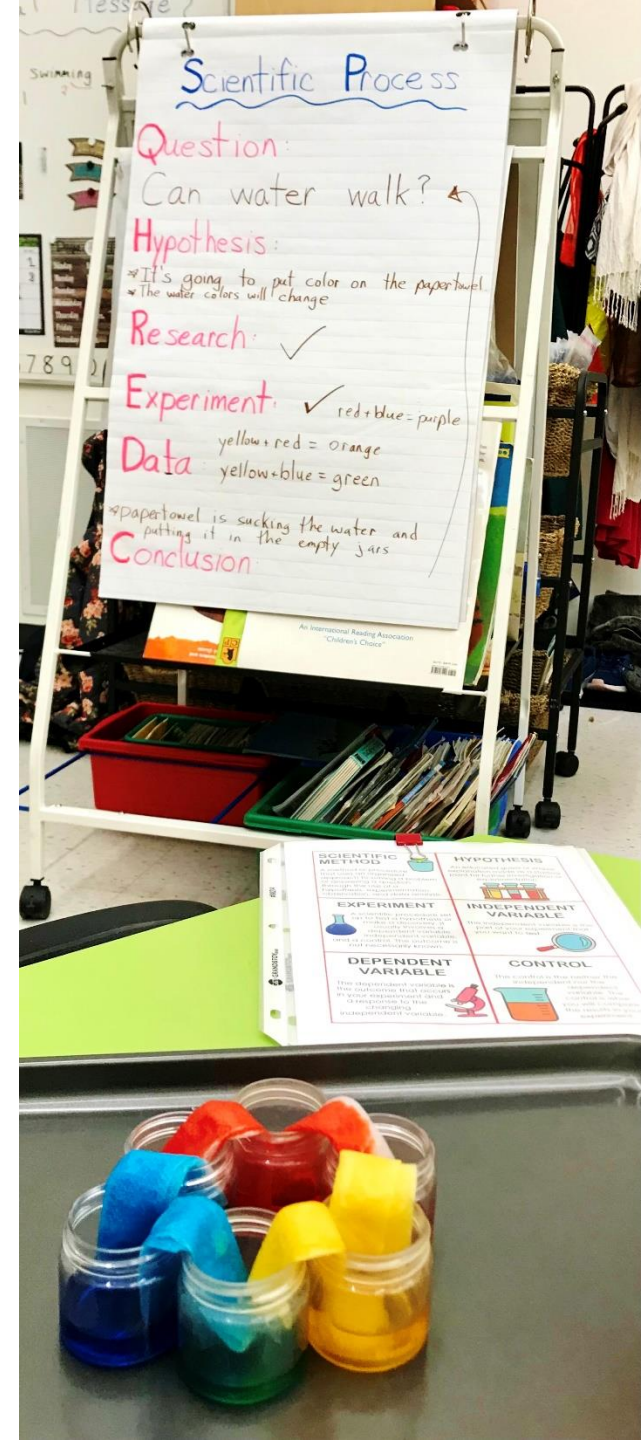




Numeracy



Science



Scientific Process

Question:
Can water walk?

Hypothesis:
It's going to put color on the paper towel.
The water colors will change

Research: ✓

Experiment: ✓ red+blue=purple

Data: yellow+red=orange
yellow+blue=green

paper towel is sucking the water and putting it in the empty jars

Conclusion:



Field Trips



Enhanced Supports



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 that works with large and small groups in the classroom.

This team may consist of:

Education Assistants or Early Childhood Practitioners

Early Learning Strategists

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)

Psychologists

Occupational Therapists (OTs)

Physiotherapists (PTs)

School Family Liaison (SFL)

Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:



- School Drop-Off:
 - Practice leaving child at friends or family
 - Quick hand-offs alleviate anxiety
- dress themselves (zippers, buttons, winter gear)
- use the bathroom and wash their hands on their own
- put away toys and help out in other small ways at home
- practice opening and closing snack containers
- open and close water bottle
- play games, take turns and compromise
- develop a consistent bedtime routine



Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Early Years Evaluation (EYE-TA) – 5 Domains:

- Awareness of Self & Environment
- Cognitive Skills
- Language & Communication
- Physical Development
- Social Skills & Approach to Learning

See EPS Kindergarten webpage for information sheet



**Experiences That Can Strengthen
Your Child's Development**

Children begin to develop critical learning skills at a young age that will help them be successful later in life; therefore, it is important for parents to provide opportunities for their children to work on these skills throughout early childhood. Learning opportunities will prepare children with the foundation necessary for success at school. Below are some simple ideas that will promote the development of skills included in the five EYE-TA domains.

A) Awareness of Self and Environment

- 1) Dress for Success:** Ask your child to select their clothing and dress themselves with minimal help. Discuss what they picked and whether or not it is an appropriate choice for the weather and occasion.
- 2) Emotions Song:** "If you're happy and you know it clap your hands (clap, clap) x 2 etc." Add other verses using appropriate actions and expressions (e.g., mad/stomp; surprised/jump; scared/hide).
- 3) Find Teddy:** To work on your child's concept of positions (e.g., front/back; top/bottom; over/under), place his or her teddy bear in different locations and ask your child to describe where Teddy is.

B) Cognitive Skills

- 1) Cheerio Math:** During snack time ask your child to count his or her food items. For example, ask your child to make groups or sets using Cheerios - demonstrate how to do this first if necessary.
- 2) Alphabet Song:** Sing the alphabet regularly with your child. Once he or she has mastered all the letter names, match the names with the written letter and introduce the sounds that these letters make.
- 3) Storybook Reading:** Read with your child early and often. Ensure that your child is engaged throughout the story by drawing his or her attention to the book and asking questions.



Getting Ready 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)

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

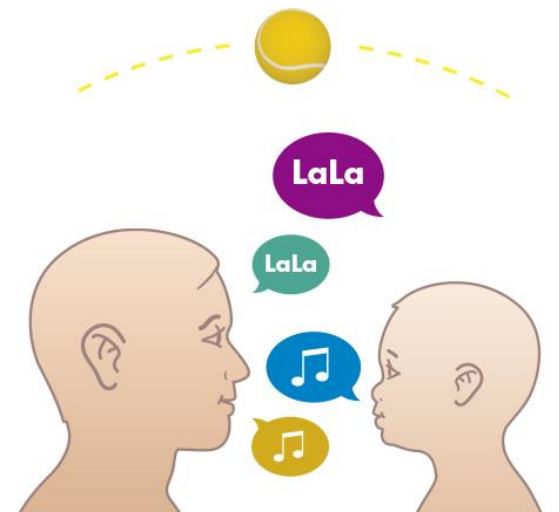


Take time to talk with your child about everyday activities:

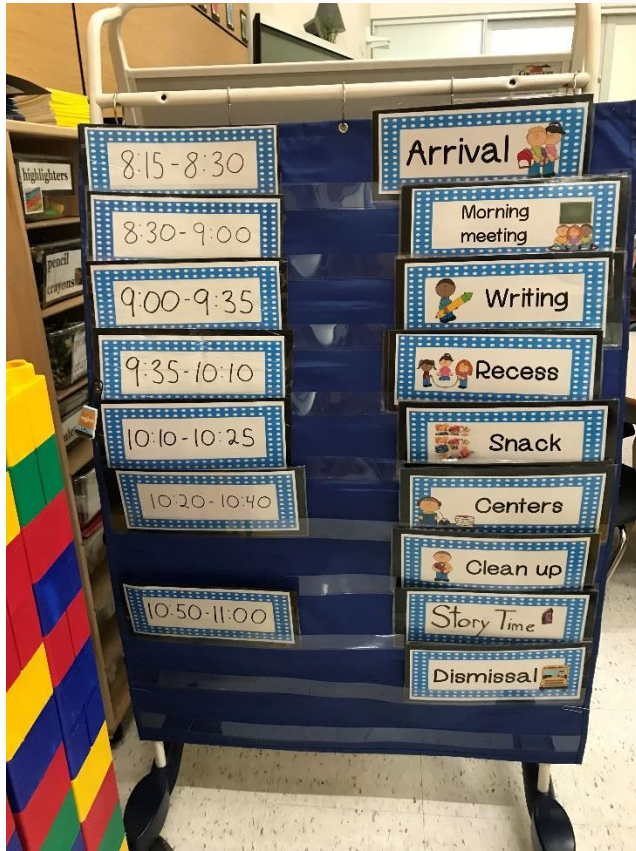
- share special activities together, such as walks to the park
- talk about what you are seeing and doing
- talk, read, sing and play in *your first language* every day
- praise children for their efforts and courage to overcome setbacks
- talk about how it is okay to make mistakes

Recommend Medical Health Checks:

- Eye
- Medical
- Dental



Important Times & Dates



First Days of School:

- Thursday, August 31/23 (first half)
- Friday, Sept. 1/23 (second half)

Monday – Thursday: 8:15 a.m. – 10:50 am

Friday: 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dismissal for kindergarten on Friday, September 1 will be at 10:50 a.m. to keep staggered entry equal

Monday, Sept. 4: Labour Day – No School

Wednesday, Sept. 13: School Council Meeting (1:30 – 3:00)

First Day – What to Bring



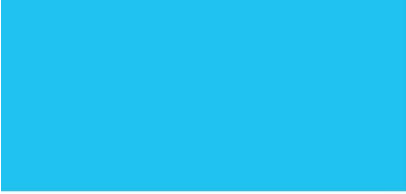
What Your Child Needs for School

- **Indoor Shoes** - to be kept at school, which can be put on independently. NO laces please.
- **Big Backpack** – full-size to hold snowpants, library book & lunch
- **Healthy snack** in a reusable container – no nuts or peanuts please!
- **Appropriate clothing** for the weather
- **Comfortable clothes** for play
- **Change of clothes**

Please label all personal items.

Please DO NOT Send

- Toys from home
- Sandals, flip-flops or slip-on shoes



School Council & Parent Society

Additional Resources

The Calgary Public Library- Top Tips for Kindergarten Readiness*:
<https://calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/kitchen-table-classroom-kindergarten-readiness/>

The Calgary Public Library- Kindergarten Booklist:
https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397_calgarylibrary_kids/1859193_931_books_to_get_ready_for_kindergarten?_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380

I'm Ready for Screens- Parent Resource:
https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/11018/ImReadyForScreens_English

*Developed in collaboration with the CPL, Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School Division