



My Child is Going to Kindergarten FAQ



Parkland School Division is an inclusive education system. An inclusive education system is one that demonstrates behaviours and decisions that reflect valuing all students. The Division is committed to achieving this goal and to fulfilling the provincial mandate for inclusion.

In our inclusive education system, everyone is accepted, everyone is loved and everyone experiences a sense of belonging! Every student, no matter their ability, disability, language, cultural background, gender or sexual orientation, has meaningful contributions to make. Using the programs of study as the framework for learning, every student is engaged in meaningful and authentic ways. All students are treated equitably; they get the support needed when they need it, and for the intensity and duration of time for which they need it.

As your child transitions from Early Education to Kindergarten we have put together a list of Frequently Asked Questions to help navigate you through this process. Your classroom team, ECS Coordinator, and/or school administration are happy to assist and answer questions you may have.

1. How do I find out which school I need to register my child in for Kindergarten?

- Please access the Parkland School Division Attendance Areas and Designated School website at <http://bit.ly/2FrJA0M>
- Within this website you can view the attendance area map and locate the school.

2. What is the Kindergarten registration process?

- Starting April 1st, 2018 online registration will be available for all families. All children entering kindergarten are required to have an online registration form filled out.
- For more information, please access the Parkland School Division Kindergarten Registration website at <http://www.psd70.ab.ca/Kindergarten.php>

3. What do I need to let my child's Kindergarten school know?

- It is important to let your child's Kindergarten school know that your child was in Early Education and received supports through the Early Childhood Program.
- Your child's CUM (Cumulative) File will follow them from Early Education to Kindergarten.

4. Can my child access the same specialized busing for Kindergarten?

- In Kindergarten, specialized busing is only provided for children who have medical reasons which require them to have:
 - A modified bus time
 - Modified seating

- Or other specialized accommodations
- The ECS Coordinators will work alongside school administration and your child's classroom team to determine if your child qualifies for Specialized busing in Kindergarten.
- If your child qualifies for specialized busing in their kindergarten year you will be notified by the ECS Coordinators.
- All students requesting transportation (regular and/or specialized) must fill in the online Transportation form located here <http://bit.ly/1QAAJVJ>

5. If I am going to kindergarten within Evergreen Catholic can I still access supports for my child?

- Yes, if your child continues to qualify for Program Unit Funding, Evergreen Catholic will work collaboratively with you to ensure supports are in place.
- Please ensure you ask your child's new school to request your child's CUM from the school they attended

6. Am I allowed to stay in the current school my child is in for Kindergarten?

- **Yes**, if it is in the **attendance area** school of your home address.
- **No**, if your current school is not in the attendance area of your home address
- Please note if you are choosing a Parkland School Division program of choice the following options are available.
 - French Immersion
 - Spruce Grove area – Ecole Broxton Park School
 - Stony Plain area – Ecole Meridian Heights
 - Maranatha Christian Program
 - Brookwood School
- If you choose a program of choice, and you require transportation, there will be a cross-attendance area fee. For more information follow this link: <http://goo.gl/ft9BKB>

7. What if I missed my Kindergarten open house?

- Please contact the Kindergarten school in your area to ask any questions you may have. To see what Kindergarten in PSD is all about follow this link: PSD: <https://goo.gl/AhnKyo>

8. Can I meet with school administration to ask questions about programming and share additional information about my child?

- Yes! School administration is happy to meet with you. We encourage you to phone the school and book an appointment if you have specific questions regarding your child's needs and programming.
- If you are looking for additional support in these meetings, please feel free to contact the ECS coordinator and they can assist you in this.
- General questions can be answered during the Schools FOPS your teacher sets up.

9. What will supports look like for my child in a PSD Kindergarten (PUF, m/m, EA time)

- **If your child qualifies for continued PUF supports**
 - The ECS Team visits all PSD Kindergartens and works elbow to elbow with the school teams to ensure the supports are in place for your child. This team consists of a Collaborative Teaching Partner, Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational/Physical Therapist, Educational Psychologist, and a Community Support Worker.
 - Classroom supports will continue to be embedded into daily classroom activities.
 - Families will have access to individual, group, and community FOPS.
 - Children will have an Individual Program Plan.
- **If your child is within the mild moderate range of needing supports**
 - Continued supports for your child will be embedded into daily classroom activities.
 - Families will have access to Community FOPS.
 - Children will have an Individual Program Plan.
- **Will my child receive a one on one Educational Assistant (EA) in the classroom?**
 - Kindergarten classrooms are assigned EA's to support all children in the class.
 - These EA's are trained to move in and support when support is needed and step back to foster independence.

10. What transitional supports are available from my current team to the new team?

- **Your current team may do the following**
 - Invite you to attend a group school FOPS in which you and your child can tour the Kindergarten school, meet school administration and ask Kindergarten questions
 - If your child requires a higher level of transitional support, please talk individually with your child's teacher.
 - Create a social story and/or video modeling clip of new schools, classrooms, and/or routines.
 - Invite administration/Kindergarten teams to visit children within their Early Education classroom.
 - The Early Education Team will meet with the new Kindergarten team as often as needed to share programming.
 - Strategies from Early Education will be shared allowing the receiving Kindergarten team to be proactive in their planning.