

Mary Hanley Kindergarten 2024-25



Frequently Asked Questions:

What should my child know before starting kindergarten?

Every child comes in with different skills and knowledge. Our goal is to help your child grow and develop their skills as individuals and as a kindergarten community. All children learn at different rates and in different ways. You can help support your child's growth at home prior to Kindergarten, by:

- introducing them to scissors
- using different types of writing tools (pencils, crayons, paint brushes)
- playing with scissors, glue, and paint
- counting for fun
- reading to your child daily
- allowing your child to try things independently
- managing their bathroom needs independently

These are not requirements, just suggestions to make the transition from home to school a smooth and easy one.

How do children learn in kindergarten?

Our Kindergarten program has the children at the forefront of their learning. Our goal is to give the children authentic learning experiences by uniting the children's interests and the Alberta Program Statement.

Children are given play-based and hands-on learning opportunities to master their learning outcomes. Teachers facilitate engaging open-ended inquiry centers and guide the children in their learning, based off children's interests to provide authentic and relevant information. Our faith is permeated in everything that we do.

The environment is the third teacher, in which it is created by and for the children. Everything in the classroom is intentional and purposeful to support the children in their learning during their kindergarten journey.

How do you differentiate learning for children?

As the kindergarten program is focused on learning through play and hands-on learning experiences, children can show their learning in a variety of different ways.

Kindergarten is focused on mastering the outcomes in the Program Statement. Learning outcomes will be taught and revisited throughout the year, allowing for children to demonstrate their learning in a way that is best suited to their strengths.

What does early literacy look like in kindergarten?

In kindergarten we make literacy meaningful. Through daily conversations, stories, activities, songs and rhyme, children are developing an understanding of how letters and sounds work together to make words.

Co-creating an alphabet wall or book with the children is an example of a relevant and meaningful literacy activity.

We practice writing daily through child-led inquiries in our journals, discovery books and on whiteboards, as well as developing meaningful print for our classroom such as making signs, labeling, and creating posters.

How do you teach my child to read and write?

In kindergarten, our focus is on developing an understanding between letters and their sounds through children's interests.

We encourage children to use invented spelling when they are beginning to write. Invented spelling is when a child only writes the sounds that they hear and is an important step in a child's development.

This allows children to take risks when spelling and creates confidence in a child's literacy development. Skills that we focus on during daily read-alouds include emerging literacy, directionality, reading for enjoyment and comprehension while using both fiction and nonfiction books.

Children make various language discoveries as they play, explore, and interact with others.

What does early numeracy look like in kindergarten?

In kindergarten, children learn about the foundations of numeracy and understanding how we use numeracy in our daily lives. The five strands that we will focus on in kindergarten include number sense, patterns and relations, shape and space, geometry, and data analysis.

Numeracy is taught through play, and children's interests to make numeracy meaningful and fun.

During our ocean inquiry unit, we measured a variety of ocean animals using standard and nonstandard units of measurement and compared the children's heights to the ocean animals. Other examples include sorting seashells, creating subitizing cards and creating math games with the children.

What age should my child start school?

Your child can start kindergarten if they are 5 years old on or before December 31st of their Kindergarten year.

How do I register at Mary Hanley?

New registrations to our school require ECSD online registration form to be completed and copies of the following to be submitted to the school:

- ***Birth certificate***
- ***Baptismal certificate if applicable***
- ***Legal Canadian Documents if not Canadian born (Residency/Citizenship)***
- ***Proof of Residency to verify home address (utility bill)***
- ***Alberta Driver's License Information***

To complete your registration please visit: maryhanley.ecsd.net

If you have further questions, please contact the school at 780-461-2551.

