



### When is my child eligible for kindergarten in British Columbia?

Most families enroll their child in kindergarten for September in the year of their 5th birthday.

### Is my child required to go to kindergarten?

School is optional for five year olds in British Columbia. A few families wait until the next year, when their child turns 6. It is up to you, as their parent, to make that decision.

### Is my child ready for a full day of kindergarten?

Every child develops at his or her own level and speed. Talk to your school principal, or kindergarten teacher, about how to ease your child's transition to kindergarten and to ease your mind.

### When will my child start kindergarten?

Langley kindergarten teachers welcome children to school in different ways. At first your child will attend school in a small group for a shorter length of time than the regular 5 hour session. This is called gradual entry. Your child's school will send you further information before kindergarten begins in September.

### Why is gradual entry to kindergarten necessary?

Gradual entry allows the teacher time to get to know your child as an individual and to help your child become comfortable with the classroom.

For information on full day kindergarten see the Langley School District website:  
[www.sd35.bc.ca](http://www.sd35.bc.ca)

Kindergarten Curriculum Summaries:  
[www.sd35.bc.ca/is/default.aspx](http://www.sd35.bc.ca/is/default.aspx)

For information on finding out of school care go to:

<http://childcareinfo.gov.bc.ca/childcaresearch/search.aspx>



*Full day kindergarten is a wonderful opportunity to build a strong foundation for life-long learning*



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# Full Day Kindergarten



**"Teachers and parents are partners in the child's education...They consult and collaborate to create for the child a climate of respect, success, and joy necessary for lifelong learning"** The Primary Program p.16



## Why Full Day Kindergarten?

- The purpose of full day Kindergarten is to enhance children's overall development - not to rush them into academics at an earlier age.
- Full day learning is associated with improved reading and numeracy, smoother transitions to Grade 1, and increased post-secondary graduation rates.
- Research shows that a play-based kindergarten program helps children to succeed in school and in life.
- Experiences in early childhood shape future learning habits.



*Children are natural learners, full of wonder and curiosity about their world*

## Kindergarten Is...

### Building a Solid Foundation

- getting off to a good start at school

### Focusing on the Whole Child

- aesthetic and artistic development
- emotional and social development
- intellectual development
- physical development and well being
- development of social responsibility

### Learning Through Play

- exploring
- creating
- doing

### Expanding Your Child's World

- making new friends
- meeting new people
- working with others

### Developing Self-Regulation

- learning to communicate effectively
- planning and evaluating
- learning to persevere



## Benefits of Full Day Kindergarten

### For Your Child

- More opportunities to learn through play.
- Extended interaction with other children to help develop strong social-emotional skills and positive self esteem.
- Greater exposure to educational materials to help develop strong literacy skills.
- More time for teachers to meet the needs of children.
- Fewer transitions during the day.
- More individual and small-group activities.

### For Parents

- Stronger connection to your child's school.
- Confidence in your child's education program.
- Opportunity to take a more active role in your child's formal education.
- Economic benefits if your childcare expenses are reduced.
- Greater work/life balance, allowing parents more time to work or study.

*It is through play that children make sense of their world*