



Supporting Transitions to Kindergarten

Welcome to SD83!

As families begin their journey towards Kindergarten, we invite them to explore the programs and resources below to support and strengthen this exciting time of transition.

Early Learning Programs & Events

Participating in an early learning program is a great way to support children's growth and development!

StrongStart

Free school-based programs that provide play-based early learning opportunities for children (0 to 5 years old) and their parents/caregivers. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Ready Set Learn

Free early learning events hosted at each elementary school in the school district. Children (3-5 years old) and their parents/caregivers are invited to engage in play-based activities, learn about programs and services offered by the school district and community organizations, and receive free books and resources. Contact your neighbourhood school or email adeboer@sd83.bc.ca for details and to register.

Early Years Fairs

Early Years fairs are hosted annually throughout the school district in partnership with community organizations and local early childhood development committees. Fairs are typically hosted in Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Enderby, and the North Okanagan. Watch for advertisements in your community.

Community Early Years Programs

There are a variety of community-based early years programs and services to explore:

- [Shuswap Children's Association](#)
- [BGC North Okanagan](#)
- [North and South Shuswap Community Resources](#)
- [Okanagan Regional Library](#)
- [Enderby & District Community Resource Centre](#)
- [Eagle Valley Community Support Society](#)

Questions? Contact Allison de Boer,

District Vice Principal- Early Learning & Child Care, adeboer@sd83.bc.ca

<https://sd83.bc.ca/early-learners-0-5-years/>

Kindergarten Transitions

We are excited to welcome our youngest learners to SD83!

Registration

Children can start Kindergarten in September of the year they turn 5 years old. Registration opens in January. Contact your neighbourhood school to learn more.

Kindergarten Orientation

In the year before starting school, parents/caregivers and their children are invited to attend a Kindergarten Orientation event at their neighbourhood school. Families meet school principals, kindergarten teachers, and school staff, and participate in early learning activities. Events occur annually in May/June. For more information, please contact your neighbourhood school.

Full Day Kindergarten with Gradual Entry

Play-based Kindergarten has long-term benefits for children's academic and social skills and supports success in school and life. In September, Kindergarten students are welcomed into school through a gradual entry model where students attend in small groups and/or for shorter periods of time, building towards full days over the first few weeks. Each school will develop a schedule and send it home to parents/caregivers.

School-Based Transition Events

Elementary schools may host additional transition events. Please contact your neighbourhood school to learn more.

When I go to Kindergarten

Families can download this free resource ([click here](#)) developed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Work through the booklet together, recording your child's strengths and interests. Use it as a keepsake or share it with your child's Kindergarten teacher in September.

Additional Resources

Talk, sing, read, create, play and explore together at home and in your community!

BC's Ministry of Education and Child Care has developed a number of free, downloadable resources to support children and families to engage in quality, play-based early learning experiences.

Let's Play: Activities for Families

Activity ideas designed to support children's early learning experiences through playing and having fun. [Click here](#).

Play Today: a Guide for Families

Ideas and examples of quality play experiences for families with children aged 0-8 years old. [Click here](#).

Early Learning Framework: a Guide for Families

"Families are the first teacher, the primary caregivers, and the knowledge keepers of their children." (BC Ministry of Education, 2019). Learn about the Early Learning Framework in this guide for families. [Click here](#).