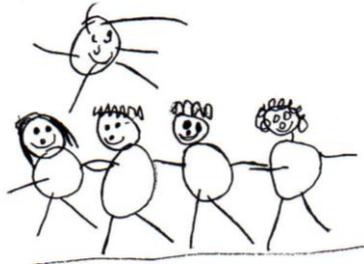


SAANICH SCHOOL DISTRICT WELCOMES YOU TO KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to a new beginning ... the Kindergarten experience! Our goal is to help all children do and be their best by building a foundation; the foundation that nurtures each child's capacity to learn.

Kindergarten children are:

- ✚ Energetic,
- ✚ Lively,
- ✚ Sensitive,
- ✚ Wonderful,
- ✚ Curious, and creative.



Kindergartens are active environments
because children learn by:

- doing,
- watching
- listening,
- talking,
- using materials,
- playing,
- thinking and
- interacting with other people

In Saanich Kindergarten classrooms you will see children learning:

- through physical movement, music, the arts and activity,
- through hands-on activities,
- to make thoughtful choices,
- to accept responsibility for their actions,
- to be comfortable and confident and cooperate in a larger social group,
- to accept and respect others,
- to think and talk about their learning,
- by talking and playing with materials and each other,
- by using literacy and mathematics skills throughout the day,
- by experimenting with print in a variety of ways,
- by having fun!

Importance of Play

A lot of what you see in a Kindergarten looks like play – and it is! Children learn through play. Through their play, they develop sensory motor control, eye-hand coordination and problem-solving skills. Physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development are all enhanced through play.

Research has shown that play:

- ✚ enhances a child's language development,
- ✚ encourages thinking, creativity and problem-solving,
- ✚ provides opportunities for children to represent their thinking,
- ✚ acts as a basis for learning in literacy, numeracy and other curricular areas,
- ✚ develops higher motivation to learn, and higher self-esteem,
- ✚ nourishes natural curiosity and supports overall healthy development.

Kindergarten Welcomes All Learners

Kindergarten is designed to meet the wide range of experiences, abilities and backgrounds that children bring with them, acknowledging that children learn in a variety of ways and at different rates. Each child is unique. Learning success depends on developing feelings of confidence as well as knowing that individual abilities are recognized and valued.

The teacher will observe, listen, and talk with your child in order to know his or her growing capabilities and to provide appropriate learning experiences.

Working Together for Children

When your child enters school, we hope you will enter too! We invite you to become involved in class and school activities. Please talk with your child's teacher to discuss your child's needs and how to access services which your child may need.

Your interaction and involvement is vital to your child's success. Whenever you have questions or concerns, please contact us so we can work as a team to provide the best experience for your child.

School success begins at home!

Families are a child's first and most important teacher. You have already helped your children learn by:

- ✚ supporting their efforts,
- ✚ providing opportunities to interact socially with other children and adults,
- ✚ providing experiences for them to talk with you about, such as visits beyond the home, into the community,
- ✚ reading to them daily and talking about signs, stories, poems and rhymes,
- ✚ providing opportunities for drawing, painting, cutting, gluing,
- ✚ having them use numbers, print and words in the world around them, encouraging them to accept responsibility and take care of belongings.



You can make the most of your child's Kindergarten experience by:

- helping your child have regular, prompt school attendance,
- seeing that your child gets enough sleep and a healthy meal before school,
- managing the amount and type of TV viewing and video games,
- sharing information with the teacher about any situations that affect your child's emotional well-being,
- alerting the teacher to any concerns you or your child may have as they arise,
- following up with the home activities suggested by the teacher,
- reminding your child of thoughtful manners and child health habits (e.g., washing hands, using the washroom, etc.),
- teaching your child important personal information (e.g., full name, phone number, address).

Kindergarten Entry

Children who are 5 years old by December 31st are welcome to attend Kindergarten. If you choose to have your child enter school the year he/she turns 6 years old, discuss with your child's school about the best placement for your child.

Gradual Entry

To ensure a successful and comfortable beginning to school, there is an introductory period of shortened sessions with children attending in small groups. This practice is supported by the Ministry of Education and the Saanich School District.

The shorter sessions provide:

An opportunity for children to come in a smaller group to be introduced to their new environment in a more personal and relaxed way; and time during the first week for parents/guardians to share information with the teachers and have questions answered.

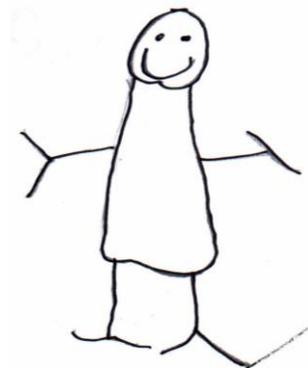
Please check with your local school for details about gradual entry procedures and times.

In Saanich, French instruction begins in Kindergarten.

Saanich School District is the only school district in British Columbia that offers Core French to all students in the English stream beginning in Kindergarten, continuing through Grade 3 (and like other Districts, continues in Grades 4-12).

In Kindergarten classrooms, you will see children learning French:

- ❖ through songs, books and games;
- ❖ through puppets, plays and choral speaking;
- ❖ by having fun!



WEBSITES

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/full-day-kindergaren (Ministry Education)

www.sd63.bc.ca (School District #63)

