



St. Albert Public
Preschool

How We Grow

PLANTING SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE THAT LAST A LIFETIME

St. Albert Public Preschool Philosophy

We believe that the early years of learning are valuable. We encourage children to explore, experiment, and develop skills at their individual level of ability. We will provide a positive learning experience for your children in a loving, fun and nurturing environment.

We believe that young children are naturally curious and eager to learn new things. Play is an effective and age appropriate way to develop new skills. Through play, children learn many valuable skills that help to set them up for success in school. These skills include social skill development, problem solving, following routines, and independence with self-help tasks, to name a few. Play in early childhood is the best foundation for success in school.

Within our preschool program, we strive to teach each child from where they are.



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In our Preschool program we strive to :

- Provide learning experiences which help to develop early numeracy and literacy skills
- Provide a positive introduction to school
- Provide programming in all areas of child development including communication, social, emotional, cognitive and physical
- Provide programming which meets each child's developmental needs, as we recognize that each child is unique in how they learn
- Foster self-esteem through relationships with children and adults who express acceptance and respect for all children
- Create an environment that allows children to utilize problem-solving skills with peers and adults in social situations with guidance and support



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Registration Process

Starting this year, we will be doing online registration for our preschool program, and we will post the link on our preschool website on February 14, 2022 when registration for new families opens. At that time, we ask that parents upload a copy of their child's birth certificate or passport, as well as complete and upload the one page preschool document. This document will give us more information about their child such as if they have concerns in terms of their speech and language, or if they have been seen by Alberta Health Services or the Glenrose hospital. In addition, if your child has an assessment date booked already with a private Speech-Language Pathologist, please make note of that as well.



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We will have spots available for children who qualify for Program Unit Funding if they have a severe delay in one or more area of development, but we will have limited community spots for children who would be coming to us with age appropriate development. Priority will be given to St. Albert residents.

Once we have received a child's registration, we will review it to see if there are concerns noted, and if there are, we will arrange a short screener with our Speech-Language Pathologist to determine next steps. If a child does not meet criteria for PUF support, they will be placed on a waitlist until we know how many community spots we will have open for the 2022-2023 school year.



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We recommend that if you do not have concerns with your child's development that you consider registering your child for another preschool program as well as we will have very limited community spots available.

Parents will not have the opportunity to indicate which location/time of the day they prefer, as there is a lot that will go into creating balanced classes with ages and increased needs of children in classes. We do try to look at things such as if there is an older sibling that attends a school in which we have a preschool classroom.

If a child is placed on a class list, parents will not be told who their child's teacher will be at this time as staffing is ongoing.

If you have concerns about your child's development, please contact me at (780)460-3712. Ext 360



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Where is the St. Albert Public Preschool located?

We have four locations currently:

- Wild Rose Elementary School (58 Grenfell Ave.) (2 classrooms)
- Keenooshayo Elementary School (40 Woodlands Road)
- Joseph M. Denko School (200 Jensen Lake Boulevard)
- Leo Nickerson Elementary School (10 Sycamore Ave)

At this time we have not yet confirmed our locations for the 2022-2023 school year as the funding model for PUF has changed over the past few years and this will determine how many classes we are able to run.



What times do the morning and afternoon programs run each day?

We offer both morning and afternoon classes in most of our locations.

- Times at all of our locations are:
8:45-11:30 am
12:15-3:00 pm

How many children are in each classroom?

Our preschool is an inclusive preschool environment where each classroom has a mix of children that are in a funded spot, as well as age appropriate peers who are in non-funded or community spots. Typically there are 14 children total per class. On average, there are 10 children who are receiving PUF support for a variety of reasons, and 4 community children who are in a non-funded spot



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How old do children need to be to attend?

Children who are receiving supports and services through PUF must be 2 years 8 months as of September 1 (birthday before December 31, 2017). This also applies to children placed in a community, or non-funded spot. This lines up with the age of entry for kindergarten, so that children can complete up to two years in preschool, depending on age of entry, before they start kindergarten.

What days do children attend school?

All preschool children attend Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week. Children in funded spots attend on Fridays. The preschool follows the St. Albert Public Schools calendar. Please note that there is no school on Mondays, or the first Wednesday of each month.



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Is transportation provided?

We do not provide transportation for children in our program. If your child qualifies for a funded spot in our program, and you have challenges with transporting them to and from school, please contact us. Currently, families who have children in funded spots are eligible for a transportation grant that helps to offset the cost of parents driving their child to an early intervention program.

Do children need to be toilet trained to attend?

Children do not need to be toilet trained. Parents are responsible to communicate with the classroom staff about where their child is at in the process and to provide diapers or pull-ups for their child, if needed.



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Do you allow parent helpers in the classroom?

In previous years we have welcomed parent volunteers into the classroom, but for the past two years we have not been able to do this due to COVID19. We are hoping to be able to return to welcoming visitors into our classrooms, but we will have to see what the next school year brings. If we are able to return to having volunteers, parents will be required to submit a copy of a current criminal record check that is to be completed each year. If we are fortunate to have volunteers return to our classrooms, the preschool will provide a copy of a form that parents can take to the police station so that they do not have to pay the criminal record check fee.



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Program Unit Funding

Children who meet Alberta Education's criteria for Program Unit Funding (PUF) have access to supports and services through our Early Learning Team (ELT). This team is comprised of Speech Language Pathologists and assistants, Occupational Therapists and assistants, a Physical Therapist, and a Psychologist.

Children's programming is individualized to their needs. In September, more information will be shared with parents to introduce the team and discuss details about programming. If you have a child who has been recommended for further supports and services please indicate this at the time of registration.



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Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at

tracy.columbine@spschools.org

The registration link will be posted on our preschool website at preschool.spschools.org at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 14