



Welcome to Kindergarten

Bienvenue à la maternelle



Kindergarten (Early Childhood Services – ECS)

What is it?

In Alberta, Kindergarten is one of the educational programs available for young children.

Parents decide if their child will participate in this program, as it is not mandatory in the province.

The program is based on the beliefs that children are naturally curious and eager to learn; that they will develop through similar stages, but at individual rates, and that the school works in partnership with families who are the child's first and most important teachers.

The Kindergarten program provides opportunities for children to learn through organized activities, purposeful play and cooperation with others. Areas such as independence, decision-making, early literacy and numeracy skills, verbal communication, listening, fine and gross motor skills, and creativity form the focus for classroom activities.

In planning the daily activities, the teachers are guided by the Kindergarten Program Statement, which was developed by Alberta Education. It describes what children need to learn to prepare for entry into Grade One. The Statement describes clear expectations in six learning areas: *Language Arts, Mathematics, Community and Environmental Awareness, Personal and Social Responsibility, Physical Skills and Well-Being and Creative and Cultural Expression.*

The Champs Vallée Kindergarten will utilize the school facilities, such as the gymnasium, Learning Commons, and Music/Drama rooms. Technology is integrated into daily lessons. Where possible, children participate in school events, such as cultural performances and special 'thematic' days.



Online Registration Forms

Please complete the student registration package online. A copy of your child's birth certificate and proof of residency can be uploaded digitally or you may bring copies to the school. Online registrations are available on our division website www.blackgold.ca or on our school website www.ecvs.blackgold.ca

In June, a confirmation letter will be mailed home indicating class placement.

For safety purposes, inform the office of any contact changes as soon as possible.

When possible, we take parental requests into consideration. Should you have a preference for French Immersion, English, morning or afternoon classes, please fill in those fields while registering online.

Kindergarten Eligibility

To be eligible for Kindergarten this Fall, your child must be five (5) years of age before **January 1, 2023**.

Kindergarten Open House

All Champs Vallée Kindergarten students are invited to attend an open house which takes place on June 22, 2022.

These visits allow the children to meet the teacher and to participate in classroom activities while parents and care-givers tour the school and to ask questions, prior to starting school in September.



Staggered Entry – September

At Champs Vallée, we feel that it is important for the Kindergarten children to start the year in small group settings. Therefore, we have set aside the first three days of class for “Staggered Entry.”

Staggered Entry is scheduled for the August 29 to 31. Families will be notified of the exact time and date your child is to attend. Families who were unable to attend June’s Open House will have the opportunity to tour the school and ask any questions at this time. Parents or a family member are encouraged to remain at school for the Staggered Entry day.

The Kindergarten students will attend class in small groups of 5 to 8 children. During their two hour stay, the children will meet their teacher and have the opportunity to explore their new classroom and to engage in Kindergarten activities

Kindergarten Fees

2022-2023 Kindergarten fees are \$110 for the school year.

All Kindergarten fees and fundraising money are used to cover supplies, instructional resources and activities that benefit your child. Fees are not used to pay for staffing.

Once your child has been registered, they are assigned a unique ID and password. Parents can pay fees online through our secure school division website, by setting up an account using the ID and password. The ID and password will be emailed by school staff.

School Council

School Council is the Champs Vallée advisory group open to all parents. It provides a meeting place for family members, teachers, administrators, school board members and other citizens who want to be involved in the school community.

All Kindergarten parents are welcome to attend the School Council meetings.

Classroom Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome and essential in the operation of ECS programs at École Champs Vallée School.

The children love to see a family member helping out in their classroom. Please speak with your child’s teacher to find out how you can help out in the classroom.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Your child will be participating in our Physical Education program.

Proper clothing that allows your child to participate freely in all activities during P.E. is important.

Please ensure that your child has non-marking soles and comfortable clothing for P.E. days.



Kindergarten Hours and Absences

Morning Class (5 Days/Week): 08:35 - 11:25

Afternoon Class (5 Days/Week): 12:25 - 15:15

Because concept development in Kindergarten is sequential, children who are absent or arrive late may be at a disadvantage.

Please ensure that your child arrives on time and attends whenever they are healthy.

Please call the school or complete [our online form](#) if your child is going to be absent.





Themes

Our classes will be busy learning through play and exploring with a variety of activities, media, and manipulatives. Themes generated by student interests are used to create engaging projects and learning.



Healthy Snacks in Kindergarten

Families are encouraged to send daily nutritious snacks for their child. Please save sweets for home and special school activities. A nutritious snack will provide them with enough energy to get them through the day and promote healthy eating.

Please note that the school is "Allergy Aware". If a student or staff member has a severe allergy, we will do our best to limit the allergen in their learning/work space. If an allergy exists in your child's classroom, the teacher will contact you to notify you of the precautions you can take to avoid potential allergic reactions in the classroom. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a big step as children move from the more enclosed world of their home and small play groups to the larger school community.

By providing certain opportunities at home, you can help your child to better prepare for this new experience.

Independence

- Help your child to develop independence in dressing themselves
 - Put on and take off outer clothing such as jackets and sweaters
 - Putting on and fastening shoes
 - Doing up zippers and buttons
 - Hanging up their clothing and/or putting it in a designated location
- Allow your child the chance to make decisions
 - Which outfit does he/she want to wear to school?
 - Which activities would they like to do?
- Work to develop independence in personal care skills
 - Blowing their nose
 - Washing and drying hands
 - Eating with utensils
 - When using the bathroom, managing their clothing and proper wiping

Early Literacy and Numeracy Skills

- Read and talk about books with your child. Ask questions such as:
 - Who? (Who ate the cookies?)
 - What? (What did Jack do with the beans?)
 - Where? (Where did Jane lose her toy?)
 - When? (When did the dog find his way home?)
 - Why? (Why was Sam so tired?)
 - How? (How did Kelly's mom get the kite out of the tree?)
- Talk about events or activities that your family is doing.
 - As you work around the house or yard, name the items you are using and how they work.
 - Talk about the order/sequence of activities when baking, building something, etc.
- Count with your child.
 - As you are setting the table, count how many plates, cups, etc. you are using.
 - When putting coins into a piggy bank, count each coin as it goes in the bank.
 - Count how many steps it takes to get to a location. (i.e. up the stairs)
- Play games with your child.
 - Games such as Simon Says and I Spy are great for thinking and observation skills.

Fine and Gross Motor Skills

- Provide opportunities for your child to be creative using: pencils, scissors, glue, markers, crayons, pencil crayons, and paint. Extra supervision may be required when using items such as scissors, glue and paint, but this early exposure is extremely valuable in developing hand muscles.
- Encourage your child to use their large muscles in a variety of ways, such as: running, crawling, galloping, skipping, jumping, riding a bike, going up and down stairs, throwing, catching and kicking various sized balls.
- Play games such as dominoes, Lite Brite, Pick Up Sticks, LEGO, etc.



École Champs Vallée School The ABC's of Kindergarten Information

~ A ~

Absences/ Late Arrivals:

Please complete our [online form](#) to notify us of any absences/illnesses, otherwise an administrative assistant will be required to call home and ask the reason for the absence or late arrival and you will receive an automated notification to call the office. When arriving late in the morning or the afternoon, please go the office for a "Glad Your are Here!" slip and bring it to the classroom.

Allergies:

The school is "Allergy Aware". If a student or staff member has a severe allergy, we will do our best to limit the allergen in their learning/work space. If an allergy exists in your child's classroom, the teacher will contact you to notify you of the precautions you can take to avoid potential allergic reactions in the classroom. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

~ B ~

Backpacks:

Please help your child choose a medium-sized, rather than a small, backpack as this size allows room for extra clothing, student work, art projects, snow pants, lunch bag for snack, library books, etc.

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Cultural Activities:

We do a variety of activities and classroom parties. If, for any reason, your child cannot participate, please let us know.

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Drop-Off/Pick-Up Time:

Please let us know when you've arranged to have someone else pick up your child. We will not release your child until we have your permission to do so. Our morning class runs from 8:35 to 11:25 a.m. and afternoon is from 12:25 to 3:15 p.m.

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Early Childhood Services (ECS):

ECS includes Kindergarten and educational programming for children as young as 2½ years old.

Early Dismissal:

The first Wednesday of each month is early dismissal at 2:30 p.m. for Grades 1 - 6, but for kindergarten there will be no classes at all.

Extra Clothing:

Please send extra clothing in the backpack (shirts, pants, etc.) for those 'just in case' situations.

~ F ~

Fees:

The \$110 fee can be paid online using Acorn via the Power School portal.

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Getting Ready for Kindergarten:

See the handouts from Alberta Health Services.

Guests:

Occasionally we have guest speakers at our school. All guests are vetted by the office and teaching staff and must sign-in at the office.

~ H ~

Hand washing:

Please encourage your child to wash their hands before eating, after using the washroom or after sneezing on hands . . . we all do the same.

Healthy Snacks:

Healthy snacks are the best choices, as children are better able to concentrate and feel their best. Two small food items and a beverage work well.

~ I ~

Indoor shoes:

In September, please send a pair of non-marking shoes to be kept at school (please print your child's name in or on the shoes).



École Champs Vallée School The ABC's of Kindergarten Information

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Kindergarten:

Kindergarten not only helps prepare children for entry into Grade 1, but also provides a foundation for later success. Kindergarten provides learning experiences that meet the diverse needs of children and promote a positive attitude toward lifelong learning. A child whose developmental needs have been met is more likely to grow into a self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing member of society.

Local school authorities may offer full-day kindergarten, or programs for children younger than Kindergarten age. Schools may charge a fee for ECS programs.

~ L ~

Label Items:

Please label your child's backpack, lunch bag, boots, shoes, clothing items and school supplies.

Library Items:

We go to library once every two weeks; each child can take out two books, to be returned prior to the next library day. If the book is not returned, another book cannot be taken out until the previous one is returned. Families are encouraged to use our online library for unlimited access to eBooks.

~ M ~

Music Time:

We integrate music, singing and song games on a daily basis.

~ N ~

Newsletters:

Each month you will receive a classroom calendar as well as updates regarding Kindergarten activities and events. Our school newsletters are posted on our school website at the beginning of each month at <http://ecvs.blackgold.ca>

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Occupational Therapy:

Please let us know if your child has received some of these services or if you think your child might require these services; the classroom teacher will do some screening in the fall.

~ P ~

Student-Led Conferences:

These take place the end of November and again in March. During student-led conferences, students demonstrate their learning.

Photographs:

Lifetouch Photography comes to the school to take individual student photos in the fall. It is optional for families to purchase online. Each child receives a class composite photo at no charge. Kindergarten graduation photos are taken in the spring. We take photos on a regular basis for our year end assembly.

Progress Reports:

Progress is formally reported two times during year (January and on the last day of school). Please contact your child's teacher for further updates on progress.

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Questions:

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher or the office staff.

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Registration: Information on registration can be found on the [Black Gold site](#).

~ S ~

Speech & language screening/concerns:

Please let us know if your child has received these services as this helps us with planning for the fall, or if you think your child might require these services; screening will be done through the year, as the need arises.



École Champs Vallée School The ABC's of Kindergarten Information

~ T ~

Themes/Topics

These will be indicated in our classroom emails.

If you have any questions please let us know, welcome to our school.





School Values

1. All students are capable of learning; it is our responsibility to find the most effective way to teach each student.
2. Our students' social emotional growth is just as important as their academic development.
3. We model how to treat everyone with dignity and respect.
4. Decisions are made based on what is best for our students.

