

Kindergarten Program

FAQ's For Schools and Families

1. HOW OLD DO CHILDREN HAVE TO BE TO ATTEND KINDERGARTEN?

Children need to be **5 years old by December 31** to attend kindergarten in September.

2. DOES MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION (MHPSD) OFFER FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN?

MHPSD only offers a half time Kindergarten program. MHPSD offers an **optional** Play & Learn program in addition to Kindergarten for children. It is our intention to provide a Play & Learn option at all schools on a first come first served basis. If we are not able to accommodate Play & Learn at the in-area school, we will offer an alternative option.

- [Play & Learn Program](#)

3. CAN A CHILD ATTENDING KINDERGARTEN ACCESS THE YMCA BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM?

Yes. The YMCA runs the before and after school care programs for the Medicine Hat Public School Division. They also offer flexible childcare options on school professional development days. Connect with the YMCA about camps available during school holidays. A subsidy program is available to families that qualify.

- [YMCA Before and After School Care Program](#) – REGISTER

4. IS KINDERGARTEN OFFERED IN THE MORNING OR THE AFTERNOON?

Each school is unique as it depends on how many children register for the program. When registering for kindergarten online you will be prompted to select your preference for either a morning or afternoon class, while we do our best to accommodate your request, it may not always be possible. The school will email you by mid-June to let you know your child's kindergarten schedule.

5. HOW CAN FAMILIES REGISTER?

Families should contact their neighbourhood school to register or take advantage of Online Registration for Kindergarten.

- MHPSD.ca/registration - Online registration

6. ARE FAMILIES ABLE TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN AT A SCHOOL OF CHOICE?

School of Choice: Families are welcome to apply to attend any public school in our division where space is available. We prefer if kindergarten children attend their in-area school. Out of area kindergarten children may need to be redirected to their in-area school for grade one if their current school of choice is unable to accommodate them.

7. IF A STUDENT IS ALREADY REGISTERED FOR KINDERGARTEN CAN THEY ADD PLAY & LEARN AFTER THE INITIAL REGISTRATION?

Yes, as long as there is space at the school/program to accommodate your child.

8. IS THERE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED FOR KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN?

School bus transportation is available to students who live within the school boundaries and qualify as per the distance requirement outlined.

- [MHPSD School Bus Transportation](#)

Transportation is available only in the morning and at the end of the school day, it is not available at the midday break. So, parents who do not sign up for the Play & Learn program will have to transport their child one of the ways to the school. “From school” if they are only in a morning Kindergarten program and “to school” if they are in only in an afternoon program.

Children accessing Program Unit Funding may access specialized transportation options (ELP bus) if they qualify. Specialized transportation can be arranged at the school.

9. WHO TEACHES THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM?

Kindergarten is taught by a teacher who holds an Alberta Teaching Certificate and is a member in good standing with the Alberta Teachers Association.

10. WHAT ARE THE HOURS FOR KINDERGARTEN?

Each school has a unique bell schedule. Children will attend kindergarten in the morning or the afternoon. Children who are also attending the Play & Learn program will attend school all day. One half of the day will be in the Kindergarten program and one half of the day will be in the Play & Learn program.

11. WHAT SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED FOR KINDERGARTEN?

Supply lists are available on the schools website and should be available by the end of June.

12. WILL SCHOOLS BE HOSTING A KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION (OR OPEN HOUSE)?

Each school will plan to offer a Kindergarten orientation. The event date will be different at each school and will be held sometime in the spring or in August just prior to school opening, watch your email for information. Kindergarten orientation provides an opportunity for children and their families to learn more about what to expect in Kindergarten. Consider following the school on social media for updates on what is happening in the school.

13. HOW WILL THE SCHOOL COMMUNICATE WITH ME REGARDING ORIENTATION AND/OR SCHOOL START UP?

Once you have completed an application for registration the school will communicate via email. Please ensure that the school has your updated contact information so you don't miss any emails. Please contact the school directly if you have questions. We also recommend that you consider following the school on Facebook and Instagram.

14. CAN MY FAMILY BOOK A TOUR OF THE SCHOOL?

Yes, contact each school directly to book a tour.