

The



of

Kindergarten

A handbook for French Immersion ECS

Absences

If your child will be absent from school for any reason, please call the school before class begins, 780-998-3741 or send emails to EPEAttendance@eips.ca. This will ensure all students are safe. Parents' (or the emergency contact) of a student without an explanation for their absence will be telephoned.

Alphabet



Take time at home with your child to practice the alphabet in English as well as in French. With a focus on letter names, sounds, and letter formation. [PDF The Alphabet in French Immersion.pdf](#)

Arrival



Students are welcomed at our main entrance beginning at 8:20 a.m. to arrive no more than 5 minutes before start time. Kindergarten will begin at 8:25 am. Supervision before school will begin at 8:20 am. Once class has started, we encourage them to quickly get ready and begin the structured activities. Students arriving by bus are greeted at the bus and escorted to the front doors of the school.

Attendance



A successful school experience is the collective responsibility of the child, the parent, and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is a key to success.



Backpacks



To help your child carry messages, information and library books to and from school, you are asked to provide a regular size backpack. Please have your child share the contents of his/her backpack with you daily.

Birthdays



Birthdays are special occasions for young children. On the day of (or following school day if during a weekend) the class will sing Happy Birthday. If your child wishes, he/she may bring a **NON-FOOD** treat for the class, such as stickers, pencils, puzzles, playdoh etc...

Book Orders



To reduce the amount of paper we have decided to make Scholastics Book Orders ONLINE only. Here is the link to order online <http://www.scholastic.ca/> Please go to Parents on the main page followed by Place Your Reading Club Order. Once you are on that page you will be able to click on Parents-Connect To A Teacher. You will be able to create a new account by searching the city, our school and then your teacher's name. You may also enter our class code: **RC188037**. These clubs offer wonderful books at reduced prices- what a great way to build your home library!

Bus



We will be discussing the bus rules with the children in class. Everyone must be aware of the bus rules as we do take the bus when attending field trips. For those who will be taking the bus to and from school daily, please ensure that their bus pass is attached to their backpack.



Centers



The best way for kindergarten children to learn is through active play. Our classroom is set up with learning centers. We carefully plan the activities in each center to develop skills and meet the needs of all the students in the class.

Clothes



Please send your child to school in clothes appropriate for learning. Becoming involved in kindergarten activities often means that the students will get a little “messy.”

Conferences



Student/Parent/Teacher conferences are held in the fall and in the Spring. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time throughout the year if the need arises, 780-998-3741.
diana.yates@eips.ca



Differentiation

Differentiated instruction is an approach to teaching in which teachers and school communities actively work to support the learning of all students through strategic assessment, thoughtful planning and targeted, flexible instruction.

Dismissal



All children who are not bussed from school are dismissed at the front doors of the school. **No kindergarten child is released unless an adult is present to pick him/her up outside the front doors.** Written permission from parents is required for any changes in the child’s pick-up routine. Please advise the office of any last-minute changes to your child’s pick-up routine. Kindergarten will dismiss at 3:12 pm.



Extra Clothes



We ask that each student brings an extra outfit (including underwear and socks) in a labeled Ziploc in case of a bathroom accident or a messy spill. If this outfit is used, please send a new outfit to school to have on hand. This way we do not have to bother you at work or home.



Field Trips



As an extension to study in the classroom, fieldtrips are valuable learning experiences for children. Fieldtrips give students tangible and sometimes hands-on experiences. ECS takes part in several fieldtrips and special presentations throughout the year. These fieldtrips are paid at the beginning of the year with school fees.

Fine Motor



The development of fine motors skills is a critical component of the Kindergarten Program of Studies. These skills involve the development of finger speed, arm steadiness, arm and hand precision, finger and hand dexterity, and the manipulation of small materials. The development of these skills will help students when printing and cutting. Please contact us if you would like ideas/examples.

Fire Drills



Fire drills are held periodically throughout the year. All students will participate and are expected to walk quickly and quietly to their designated exit. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill.

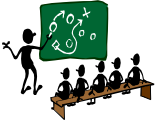
Footwear

Students require a pair of indoor shoes that will stay at school. Please ensure they have non-marking soles for phys. Ed.



Activities and that they can do them up independently. Please remember to label your child's shoes.

French



French will be the main language used in the classroom. Being immersed in a new language can be stressful and difficult, but also positively challenging and gratifying. Please remember to always be patient and supportive. If your child is eager to speak French, encourage her/him and do not attempt to correct her/his pronunciation. If you are uncertain, give your child the benefit of the doubt. Be proud of your child's achievements and remember that the child's learning capacity is often underestimated. They do not perceive levels of difficulty the way we do and are often less hesitant to try.



Gym



Physical Education will take place every school day in the gym. We will also do daily routine exercises in the classroom.

Hands On Learning



The best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. Important concepts can be grasped by doing meaningful hands-on activities. There are times when seated work is required and necessary, but for the most part, our classroom will be an active learning environment.

Homework



Throughout the year your child will take part in oral presentations. Information will be sent home prior to each one providing hints on how to help your child prepare.



Illness



The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. In order to help stop the spread of infections it is important to keep your child home if he/she is ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. Please ensure you let the office know (see absences).

Journals



It is vital that students learn the concept that “print conveys meaning.” One strategy for accomplishing this is frequent use of writing. During these activities kindergarten students combine their emerging writing skills and French vocabulary with their drawing skills.



Kindness



Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted.

Keeping Us Informed

Please remember to send a note whenever there is a change in address, phone number, babysitting or pick-up arrangements. To continue teaching your children in a nurturing and caring environment, please advise me if there are any changes in your child’s normal routine and behaviours.



Library



Once our library opens for the school year, the children will be allowed to sign-out two books from the library (one in French and one in English.) Please help your child to be responsible for these books by finding a good spot to store them during the week and by bringing them back on library day when they can exchange them for two new books.

Literacy



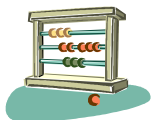
Early literacy focuses on children being actively engaged in acquiring language and constructing their own understandings of how oral and written language works. Children experiment with their understanding of language, testing it in verbal interactions with their peers, parents, and other adults. (Alberta Education)

Lost & Found

We have a Lost and Found boxes by the gym. We ask that you label clothing items worn to school by your child. This will help us return lost articles to their owners.



Math



The kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue through their school career and their lives. We use a variety of resources which utilize a hands-on, problem-solving approach.

Music



The children will be learning the basics of music education and will be sharing many wonderful songs!



Newsletter



We will be emailing a newsletter every month to keep you informed of the happenings in our classroom. This is a great way to stay abreast of our curriculum, classroom news, special activities and upcoming events.

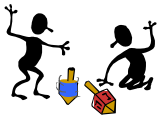
Nut Aware Policy



Due to the increasing number of nut related allergies, our school follows the Nut Aware Policy set by Elk Island Public Schools. Please do not send any products that contain, or are made in a facility that processes nuts.



Outside Time



We will be going outside for recess daily. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather.

Parties and Celebrations



We will have class parties for special occasions. Please look for more information in your monthly classroom newsletters.

Questions?



Since so many of you are new to École Parc this year, I'm sure that you may still have some unanswered questions. Please feel free to call us at 780-998-3741 or email.

Diana Yates diana.yates@eips.ca



Independent Reading



Sufficient time and a variety of materials are necessary to develop and strengthen reading behaviours. By consistently giving the children time to look at books both at school and at home, we can work together to provide a literature-rich environment and a life-long love of reading.

Shared Reading



Shared reading is an interactive process used with the whole class. As the teacher reads a story, children join in on phrases or words that they know. During subsequent re-reading, children learn more and more French vocabulary, until they are encouraged to read and act out the story independently. Shared reading is an opportunity for the teacher to introduce French vocabulary, to model conventions of print and the use of reading strategies.

Report Cards



Kindergartens will receive the Early Years Evaluation – Teacher Assessment (EYE-TA) in the fall, a progress report in March, and one a final report card at the end of June.



Science



The focus of the kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in life and earth sciences, including the study of animals and plants, the five senses and general health, as well as the four seasons. These areas will be explored using a literacy based, hands-on approach.

Snack



Every day we have a 15-minute snack break in the morning and afternoon. Your child should bring 1-2 small snacks to school every day. Healthy snacks are encouraged and items that are easy for the children to open themselves make snack time run more smoothly. They will be eating their lunch in the classroom so

please ensure that all lunch bags and containers are labeled with their names.

Social Studies



The kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on the child's own uniqueness and how the child belongs within our society. The child's individuality, and the way the child relates to others in their family, their class, their school, and their community will be explored. Activities will help the children develop their natural curiosity for the world around them.



Themes

Language development will be based around themes that may continue for a day or a period of weeks.

Toys



As a rule, we do not encourage children to bring toys or personal possessions to school (except on special occasions) as they tend to get lost or forgotten. Leaving them in their school bag is not encouraged as they may not have enough room to carry important school related items.

Transportation



If you plan to pick up a child that normally rides the bus, written permission by email/note to the teacher and secretaries, or a phone call to the school must be done. **If no written note or phone call is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.**

Unique



Kindergarten students learn that they are special and unique. In class they are given opportunities to describe how they are alike as well as different from others. They share their culture and learn about different cultures within the class.



Visitors



École Parc has a policy that **ALL GUESTS (including familiar faces) are required to sign in at the office and to wear a guest lanyard while volunteering.** We welcome and encourage family involvement. It is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

Volunteering



Throughout the year, parents will have various opportunities to Volunteer in the school and on fieldtrips. More specific information will be communicated to you by your child's teacher.



Wish List



Throughout the year we sometimes need supplies above and beyond our classroom materials. Such as baby wipes, Kleenex, milk cartons and craft supplies. These needs will be posted in the class newsletter. Extra items that you think we might be able to use are always welcome! We also collect small, non-food items for our classroom treasure box.

Writing



Our writing program builds on what each child already knows. Writing begins with scribbles and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words, and spaces and eventually sentences. Your children will be encouraged and praised for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment is paramount to your child's progress in writing. If possible, please provide your child with writing tools, such as pencils, crayons, markers, and paper at home.

We have found that most parents spend time at home helping their children print. We are providing a printing practice sheet of the alphabet so the children will learn to do it correctly the first time.



X

X is ten in Roman Numerals. The students have to recognize and write the numbers 0 to 10 in kindergarten.

Younger Siblings

It is in your child's and the program's best interest to have our parent volunteers available without younger children. This allows for some special time between you and your kindergartner. Thank you for making childcare arrangements for younger siblings.

Zzzzzzzz



Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime routine is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help her/him to be alert and ready to learn each day!