



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Background

Early Childhood Services (ECS) refers to educational programming for children before they enter Grade 1. ECS includes both Pre-Kindergarten programming dedicated to children who require additional supports and Kindergarten.

Early Childhood Programs utilize a continuum of programming that is developmentally appropriate and meets the diverse needs of young children and their families.

Definitions

a) Early Childhood Services: programs that support the developmental needs of children before they enter grade one. Young children participate as active partners in learning, build a set of shared experiences and develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that prepare them for subsequent learning. Early Childhood Programs may provide additional support for children with identified needs to assist their access to learning by removing barriers.

b) Kindergarten: one component of the total Early Childhood Programs as funded by Alberta Education and referring to the year immediately prior to grade one.

Procedures

1. Early Childhood Programs will be consistent with the philosophy, goals and program dimensions prescribed by Alberta Education and the Division.
2. Eligibility for entrance to ECS programs is outlined in the Appendix.
3. Enrollment in ECS is voluntary.
4. Each child accessing Early Childhood Programming will have developmentally appropriate programs with supports and services as needed. The child's individual program plan will be developed collaboratively, engaging parents in a meaningful way.
5. Current provincial and divisional regulations with respect to safety standards, programs, policies, teachers, records, finance, and insurance will be strictly maintained.

Reference: Sections 21, 32, 41, 52, 53, 197, 222 Education Act
Early Childhood Services Regulation (87/2019)
Funding Manual for School Authorities
Kindergarten Program Statement (2008)
Standards for Special Education
Standards for the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education (2006)