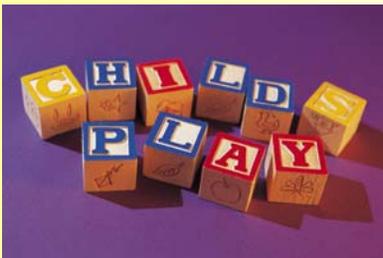


The Successful Kindergarten Student

Experiencing success right from the start at school is important to both you and your child. Although every student enters school with unique needs and at different developmental levels, the typical successful Kindergarten student can:

- independently toilet, and dress and undress (Velcro shoes okay!)
- demonstrate beginning skills with scissors, crayons, and pencils
- play cooperatively with other children (share, take turns)
- follow simple directions
- cope on his or her own (without a parent or comfort toy)
- sit, listen to, and enjoy a story
- demonstrate basic hygiene (blow nose, cough into sleeve)
- demonstrate basic manners (please, thank you, doesn't interrupt)
- demonstrate a very beginning understanding of numbers and letters (for example, can recognize the letter their name starts with, and can count a collection of a few items)



For more information on Kindergarten, you can:

- ⇒ talk to the Principal of your neighbourhood school
- ⇒ talk to the current Kindergarten teacher of your neighbourhood school
- ⇒ visit the Ministry of Education website at:
http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/fdk/
- ⇒ contact the School District Board Office (250-368-6434)



KINDERGARTEN



Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time for children and their families!





The Kindergarten Program: Play is Children's Work

Research shows that a play-based kindergarten program helps children to succeed in school and in life. Experiences children have in early childhood shape future learning habits. It is through play that children make sense of the world. Play is children's work: it is a time to imagine, explore, build and try out ideas. So, when your child comes home from school and answers the question, "So, what did you do at school today?" with the response, "We just played!", know that the play being referred to is purposeful and intended to support and nurture learning.

School District 20 is proud of its Language Choices

Families of students entering Kindergarten have three options regarding which language they would prefer to have their child learn in: English, Russian or French.

Twin Rivers Elementary School in Castlegar offers the above three options for language learning. The programs offered at Twin Rivers are open and available to any student living in School District 20. Existing school bus routes may work for families getting their child to and/or from Twin Rivers. If, however, district school bussing does not work, transportation then becomes the responsibility of the family.

Kindergarten in English

Most students in our area speak English as their first language. Starting school in the language that a child is most familiar and comfortable with makes sense for many families for their child. All district schools offer Kindergarten instruction in English.

Kindergarten in Russian

A well-established program housed at Twin Rivers is the Russian Bilingual (RB) program. Families interested in having their child learn the Russian language and experience Russian culture may consider

enrolling in the RB program. In Kindergarten, the language of instruction is balanced, with 50% of the day spent in the Russian language, and 50% of the day spent in the English language. This balanced approach in language learning continues as a child moves through future grades.

Kindergarten in French

A new program offered at Twin Rivers is Early French Immersion (EFI). Unlike the Late French Immersion (LFI) program, the EFI program will be instructed 100% in French (LFI is 80%), providing students with a true immersion experience. With the ultimate goal of graduating with a Bilingual Dogwood Certificate, the EFI program offers families a new option when enrolling their child for Kindergarten.

Registration Information

Families interested in registering for the RB or EFI program must first register in their catchment area school, and then make application for either program (info available at schools and on the district website www.sd20.bc.ca).

Please note: The EFI program has been approved as a two-year pilot program. Families who make application for their child to be enrolled in this program must understand that, at this point, the program is not guaranteed to run beyond the 2016-2017 school year.