

Frequently Asked Questions about going to Kindergarten

How do I enroll my child in Kindergarten?

To enroll your child in kindergarten for the upcoming school year, your child must be 5 years old by December 31st of this year.

Please bring your child's birth certificate and proof of home residence when registering. We encourage parents and guardians to enroll their child between January and March to help schools with their planning.

Visit <https://www.stjosephnelson.ca/> for registration information, **kindergarten social story**, calendar, and school hours.

What if my child is not ready for full days?

Some children benefit from an extended gradual entry process. We will work together to determine what is best for your child's needs.

How can I prepare for September?

In BC children are considered ready for kindergarten during the calendar year they turn 5. Important routines to practice with your child include **hygiene and self-care (washing hands, toileting)** and **development of independence in dressing** (zippers, buttons, shoes and backpack).

To help your child prepare for kindergarten we recommend **creating a solid routine at home**, preferably one in which you read to your child every night before bed, and play with them and hopefully have them play with others too. **Playing**, learning to share, taking turns are valuable skills to learn.

Some parents might be wondering if they should teach their children the alphabet or numbers. We will take a phonetic approach with the Jolly Phonics program and in math we will develop a number sense

through place value of 5-ness and 10-ness. Both programs do not need any letter or number knowledge prior to kindergarten.

This website contains many useful tips and fun activities to prepare your child in the area of gross and fine motor skills.

<https://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/>

How can I support my child's success at school?

- Read with them every day
- Encourage independence in daily activities: bathroom, cleaning up, dressing themselves
- Establish predictable home routines: meal times, story time, bedtime
- Be excited about school! Get involved in parent advisory committee meetings or volunteer in the classroom

What if my child needs support at school?

If you believe that your child might require additional supports, please talk to us. Some services are available within our school:

- Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy
- Speech and language pathology
- Additional support services