



NANAIMO LADYSMITH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

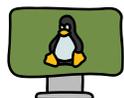
Coming to Kindergarten

Information for Guardians of Kindergarten Students 2021-2022



The Journey Begins

Starting Kindergarten is a big adventure for you and your child. All the new services and routines can be confusing. We invite you to use this guide to begin your child's journey to school.



Registration

If you have not done so already, the first step to starting school is registration.

Kindergarten registration began the first week of January and is online only. You'll need one of the following - your child's Birth Certificate, Passport, Immigration Canada document, Certificate of Citizenship or Permanent Resident Card and two different documents that provide proof of residency.



Gradual Entry

In most schools, a gradual entry system is scheduled to try to ensure that new Kindergarten students feel comfortable and confident in their new classroom. Gradual entry begins with an opportunity to meet and talk with the Kindergarten teacher(s), followed by gradual periods of time that are built upon over the first days of Kindergarten.

Children also begin coming to school in smaller groups. This allows them to become familiar with their new school environment, classroom, school staff, and new friends. Children come in small groups for partial days, gradually increasing the length of time each day in the classroom. The first full day of Kindergarten is typically the Wednesday of the second week of school.

Where needed, the entry routine for your child may be adjusted depending on the needs of individual children.

A Typical Day in Kindergarten

Morning routines: changing shoes, hanging up their coat, beginning morning circle or soft start activities such as a 'morning table'.

Play-based literacy and math activities.

Whole group songs, stories, poems, and dances.

Choice Time/ Centres.

Outdoor play and learning experiences.

Snack and Lunch.

Whole class inquiries for science and social studies activities.

Quiet time activities in the afternoon.

Going to the library to borrow books.

Going to music and gym.



You're Not Alone

School staff highly value the information that you give us about your child. Please reach out to the school team to share information that may help your child transition smoothly. This could include any involvement with outside services, what language is spoken at home, or unique family dynamics. All this information helps a school team best plan for your child. You are the parent; you know your child best.

If your child has some diverse abilities and/or you would like to know more about resources in the school system, please click here or use the QR code to access [All Kids Go To School](#)





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Frequently Asked Questions



Washrooms

The kindergarten class will have a washroom in the classroom or close to the classroom. Children will learn and be reminded about how to close the door, use the toilet, flush, and wash their hands after.

Recess Breaks

- Twice a day your child will go outside for recess. This may include the playground and the field.
- There is supervision for all students during recess. Supervisors wear a safety vest so they are easily identified.
- There is also outdoor supervision for 15 minutes before and after the school day as all children arrive and leave each day.

Shoes, Backpacks, Lunch materials

- Please send a pair of non skid velcro runners or good fitting slip on shoes to be worn in the classroom and gym.
- Choose a backpack that is the right size for your child; too large makes it hard to carry, too small makes it difficult for them to pack up and manage their belongings. Possible items that go back and forth between school and home are: a lunch kit, a library book, and a Back and Forth folder.
- Select lunch kits and containers that your child can easily open and close. Practice using them and putting them back into the kit.
- Provide a change of clothes labeled with your child's name in a bag.
- Dress for play. In Kindergarten we are active and often get messy with paint, playdough, markers, mud and more.

Bussing

- If your child lives more than 4.0km from your catchment school, your child will be able to take the bus to and from school.
- You can read more and register your child for a bus pass by visiting the [information for parents page here](#)

Countdown to Kindergarten

January to June

- [Online registration begins](#)



February / March

- Attend Ready, Set, Learn events at your school
- Healthy Start to Learning Fair Wednesday Feb 3 6:30-7:30 pm and Saturday, March 6 11:00am-noon. Held virtually with Zoom register at nanaimoearlyyears@telus.net
- Wednesday, March 10, 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Information Night virtually with the Nanaimo Child Development Centre (NCDC)

April / May

- Attend Ready, Set, Learn events at your school
- Healthy Start to Learning Fair Wednesday, April 7 12:30-1:30 pm. Held virtually with Zoom register at nanaimoearlyyears@telus.net

May/June

- Attend Welcome to Kindergarten events as invited

July/ August

- Family time—rest and relaxation
- Talk about starting Kindergarten—highlight the positives
- Find everyday moments to practice routines such as putting on indoor shoes, using lunch kits, and toileting

September

- Kindergarten begins—gradual entry at most schools
- Kindergarten students will be attending full time by Wednesday, September 15th

October/November

- Teachers/support staff get to know your child
- Formative Assessment (Parent-Teacher) conferences