

WELCOME TO THE KTCEA Early Learning Program

PARENT HANDBOOK







۰۵۲طه «۵<u>۱</u>۹۵۰» ۱۹۵۰ مح۵"ه

nîhiyaw kiskinohamâkîwin nakacîwin EXCELLENCE IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION



MISSION

We honour the vision of our Elders and leaders by coming together as one single authority responsible for the education of our children. Education is the legacy we collectively leave for present and future generations.

Our strength is the richness of our land and the uniqueness of our language, history, identity, and ways of being. Working closely with the members of the community, we are committed to ensuring traditional teachings are nurtured so that students know who and have pride in who they are.

Our actions and decisions are centered on what is best for students. We value holistic learning environments that promote respect, discipline, belonging, goodness, love, and encouragement. Our schools foster student success, well-being and lifelong learning.



KTCEA believes that every child is a gift, with unique talents and purpose that must be mentored, nurtured and encouraged.

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What is Early Learning?

Welcome to the KTCEA early learning program. The program is developed to meet the needs of early learners in our communities and prepare children for Grade 1. Students will participate in daily activities of the school and be provided a community-specific, culturally relevant curriculum.

KTCEA believes that every child is a gift, with unique talents and purpose that must be mentored, nurtured and encouraged. We believe that providing Ensuring that children have a safe, healthy and caring environment will enhance their education journey at KTCEA.

KTCEA understands that play is fundamental to a child's learning. By providing a "learn through play" environment each child can learn and develop at an individual pace while still benefiting from being part of a group. Our full day programs provide a learning environment that supports all areas of development; social, emotional, physical, and intellectual.

We offer full-time early learning programs for 4-year-olds (K4), and for 5-year-olds (K5).

A few things to note:

- Participation in early learning programs is voluntary.
- To register:
 - » K4 children must be 4 years of age on or before December 31 of the current school year, and have independent toileting skills.
 - » K5 children must be 5 years of age on or before December 31 of the current school year.
- The K4 program is designed to meet the developmental needs of four-year-olds in all five areas of development (social, emotional, physical, cognitive/language, and creative).
- The K5 program meets the Alberta provincial Kindergarten program requirements and learning outcomes in the KTCEA common, consistent curriculum.
- Because Kindergarten is full time, early learning programs follow the same school calendar as the rest of the students.
- The kindergarten teacher is responsible for referring kindergarten children to the principal for assessment of exceptional learning needs.





The program is developed to meet the needs of early learners in our communities



Culturally relevant curriculum

K4 Early Learning Program

K4 Early Learning Program

The K4 program consists of age-appropriate and culturally relevant developmental milestones and activities in the five areas of development.

I. Cognitive and Language Development:

- » Adults model good language and listening skills in the classrooms.
- » Children develop receptive and expressive language skills within a natural play setting.
- » Activities to encourage communication including non-verbal interactions and intention to communicate.
- Activities that develop concept building skills; classifying, ordering, determining direction and perceiving spatial relationships.

2. Social Development:

- » Opportunities for children to work independently and to share and work cooperatively in small groups.
- » The classroom environment fosters positive behavior in children.
- » Children appreciate differences and respect the personal feelings and property of others.
- » Opportunities for social interactions that help children develop appropriate skills.
- » Activities to develop a child's feelings of belonging to family, community, and the world at large.



Children appreciate differences and respect the personal feelings and property of other



Activities that develop concept building skills

Activities to develop a child's feelings of belonging to family, community, and the world at large.





Children develop a positive self-concept



3. Physical Development:

- » Indoor and outdoor activities to develop fine and gross motor skills.
- » Develop self-help skills through daily routines such as hand-washing, dressing and resting and feeding times.
- Encourage good health and safety skills in a group setting that promotes kindness and respect for self and others.
- Offer experiences and materials that encourage creative endeavors such as music, art, movement play, storytelling, and construction within daily scheduling.

4. Emotional Development:

- » Children develop a positive self-concept.
- Children are helped to express positive and negative feelings in appropriate ways.
- Provide a comfortable setting in which the children feel proud of their cultural heritage, and cultural sharing is encouraged.

5. Creative Development:

- A variety of supplies and materials, to create daily visual art in a variety of ways.
- » Opportunities to engage in singing, dance, poetry, use of musical instruments.
- Dramatic play props provided in classroom learning/ play centres.

Provide a comfortable setting in which the children feel proud of their cultural heritage, and cultural sharing is encouraged.



Develop self-help skills through daily routines



K5 Early Learning Program



K5 Early Learning Program

The K5 Kindergarten program follows the Alberta Education Kindergarten Curriculum

Each learning area consist of the organizing idea, guiding questions, and the learning outcomes through these they will develop their knowledge, understanding, and skills and procedures.

The children will explore learning outcomes through the guiding questions in a play based and culturally relevant environment. Below are the guiding questions for each subject.

Early Language Arts and Literature

- How can ideas and information be organized?
- In what ways can listening and speaking communicate feelings, ideas, and information?
- How can word knowledge contribute to building vocabulary?
- How are sound and oral language connected?
- How do letters and sounds work together to make words?
- How does letter and word recognition support the development of fluency?
- How are messages understood?
- How can messages be recorded?
- How do conventions support literacy development?

Science

- How can properties of an object be distinguished from one another?
- How can humans, animals, and objects move?
- What makes up my environment?
- What are instructions?

Social Studies

- How do stories, fables, and personal experience help us explore and understand our world?
- How do our personal stories compare with those from other times?
- How do rules or expectations contribute to a sense of belonging to family, community, or the wider world?
- How can maps and globes be used to help us understand the world and where we live and travel?
- What are basic human needs and wants?
- What's essential for young children to know about money and managing their personal resources?

Mathematics

- How can quantity contribute meaning to daily life?
- In what ways can quantity be composed?
- How can shape bring meaning to the space in an environment?
- In what ways can size be distinguished?
- How can patterns be recognized?
- In what ways can time be described?

Fine Arts

Dance

- How can an understanding of the body contribute to dance?
- How is an idea in dance created?
- What is the function of dance in local communities?

Music

- What are the qualities of sound?
- How does an idea in music develop?
- What is the function of music in local communities?

Drama

- How is play a form of expression in drama?
- Where do ideas in drama originate?
- What is the function of drama in local communities?

Visual Arts

- How does line contribute to artworks?
- How can an artist create ideas in and through visual arts?
- What is the function of visual arts in local communities?

Physical Education and Wellness

- How can physical activity be included in daily life?
- How can an awareness of the body facilitate movement?
- What is fair play?
- What might boundaries look like in different situations?
- Why is food necessary for life?
- How can personal characteristics influence feelings and emotions?
- What are healthy relationships?
- How is growth unique and individual?'
- What is money?





Developmental skills, and milestones will be evaluated using daily observations, daily activities, teacher anecdotal records and the Early Years Evaluation. The Early Years Evaluation (E.Y.E) will be used to identify children's progress in their development. This tool will guide teacher planning and will assist in creating a developmentally appropriate learning experience for each child.

* taken from Alberta Education Kindergarten Curriculum & a variety of internet resource





Centre Time (focused centers) Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Health, and more

What Will Your Child's Day Look Like?

Time	K-4 Daily Activities
8:15 - 9:32	Arrival, prepare for day, breakfast
9:32 - 10:15	Circle Time
10:15 - 10:25	Recess/Outdoor Play
10:25 - 11:07	Centre time (focused centres)
11:07 - 11:50	Small groups
11:50 - 12:05	Lunch (provided)
12:05 - 12:25	Outdoor Play
12:25 - 1:07	Small groups/Quiet time
1:07 - 1:50	Phys Ed
1:50 - 2:05	Outdoor Play
2:05 - 3:15	Centre time (focused centers)
3:15 - 3:25	Clean up and prepare for home

*Daily schedules may vary according to each school

We encourage parents to be actively involved in their children's learning.



Time	K-5 Daily Activities
8:15 - 9:32	Arrival, circle time, breakfast
9:32 - 10:15	Literacy Centres
10:15 - 10:25	Recess/Outdoor Play
10:25 - 11:07	Math Centres
11:07 - 11:50	Math Centres
11:50 - 12:05	Lunch (provided)
12:05 - 12:25	Outdoor Play/Recess
12:25 - 1:07	Center time - Literacy
1:07 - 1:50	Phys Ed
1:50 - 2:05	Recess
2:05 - 3:15	Centre Time (focused centers) Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Health, Science, Art, and shared Reading and Writing
3:15 - 3:25	Clean up and prepare for home

*Daily schedules may vary according to each school

Program plans will be developed by each early learning teacher and will be provided/posted for parents.

Contact your child's teacher to discuss programs, activities, learning goals for the week/month, and how you can support your child at home.



Small groups/ Quiet Time





Get involved in the school experience



Help your child master self-help skills like washing his/her hands



Read books with your child to help familiarize them

How can parents help?

Parents are important to their child's success in early learning.

Tips for a how you can support your child/children:

- Regular/daily attendance is important.
- Help your child recognize his/her first name.
- Read books with your child to help familiarize them with how to handle a book. Help them learn respect for books and enjoyment of the pictures.
- Help your child be familiar with using scissors, pencils, crayons, and paints to develop their fine motor skills.
- Talk with your child about going to school and make it a happy experience.
- Talk about things in daily life to promote literacy and numeracy; talk about letter names and simple words found around the house, beginning sounds of words, numbers by counting out objects, and colour names of things they interact with each day.
- Help your child master self-help skills like washing his/her hands, using the washroom, putting on jackets, shoes and socks and using utensils at the table.
- Get involved in the school experience; visit the school, be a volunteer, offer your expertise to teach students things such as; Cree language, crafts, storytelling, share knowledge of plants, animals, etc.

Your child's health is important for success in school

Healthy Habits for Success in School:

- Make sure your child gets plenty of rest (10-12 hours).
- Ensure your child eats a balanced diet.
- Send your child to school with healthy snacks.
 - » Full lunch is provided at school.
- Develop habits of cleanliness and independent personal hygiene.
- Keep your child at home if they are sick.
- Be active; children need to move and play as much as possible.
- School policies will be followed in the event of: illness, head lice, administering medicine and medical treatment.



School policies will be followed in the event of illness



Ensure your child eats a balanced diet

Talk with your child about going to school and make it a happy experience.





Services provided to early learning students at KTCEA

English Language Arts and Literature

Resources include:

- Handwriting Without Tears
- Heggerty Phonics Program
- Joyful Literacy
- Leveled Literacy Intervention
- Home reading program

Mathematics

Resources include:

- Jump math
- Math makes sense
- Mathletics
- Math discovery with use of manipulatives, hands on learning
- Play based activities

Cree Language

- Cree Instructor
- Cree Specialist to support program and instructors
- Daily Cree language activities

Land Based Learning

- School based activities
- Land based learning specialist support

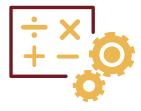
Physical Education and Wellness

- Daily physical activities
- Physical education teacher





Land based learning specialist support



Math discovery with use of manipulatives, hands on learning

Fine Arts - Art, Music & Dance

- School based learning
- Fine arts specialist support
- Play based activities

Inclusive Education

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech/Language
- Equine-assisted Learning

1.0

Assessment

- Early Years Evaluation.
 - E.Y.E Direct Assessment: play-based, individual assessment to measure a child's readiness for Kindergarten, developmental needs and pre-literacy skills
 - E.Y.E Teacher
 Assessment: teacher
 informal classroom
 observation in order
 to target instruction
 specific to each child's
 learning needs
- Fountas & Pinnell Benchmarking
 reading assessment



Daily physical activities

KTCEA specialists will support the early learning teachers and administrators with the programming provided to all early learning students.



Registration and School Information

For more information or to register your child please contact the school principal, teacher or the **KTCEA Early Learning Coordinator:**

Atikameg School (K5) 780-767-3797
Cadotte Lake School (K4/5)780-629-3767
Clarence Jaycox School (K4/5) 780-649-2942
Elizabeth Quintal School (K4/5)780-869-3830
Kateri School (K4/5) 780-869-3990
Little Buffalo School (K4/5) 780-629-3950
KTCEA Early Learning Coordinator 780-649-6597

To register, parents will need their child's Alberta health card, Birth Certificate and Treaty/Registration card.

School supplies are provided. Children require indoor shoes and a back pack.



For more information about KTCEA schools, programs or services visit our website: www.ktcea.ca





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