

KINDERGARTEN IN ECSD – SEPTEMBER 2026



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TAKEAWAYS

- 1 Want to know what resources your Kindergarten program should have? We have compiled a list of every resource given to schools from 2023 up until now. If you are missing some of these resources, please speak to your administrator.
- 2 The Kindergarten Social Studies Teacher's Planning Guide is COMPLETE! Teachers have access to a clickable and printable version. Each school will be receiving a paper copy.
- 3 Looking to refresh the rhythm of your day? Our Rhythm of the Day resource includes programming considerations, sample schedules, and templates to make planning easier and create meaningful daily experiences.
- 4 Looking for the updated September Year Plan? Look no further! Paper copies should arrive at schools through IMC shortly.



SLP CONNECTION

Our K TASLs and SLPs will be starting kindergarten language screening in early September to identify which students may benefit from communication supports. We already screened over 800 students online this summer!

Please send home this permission letter with each student as soon as possible. This must be signed by a parent/guardian before screening can be completed.



SEPTEMBER CHECKLIST

- ☒ All children have (preferably non-slip on) shoes with their name on the inside.
- ☒ All children brought an extra set of clothing in a Ziplock bag labelled with their name.
- ☒ All children brought school supplies.
- ☒ Organizational transportation document has been created.
- ☒ Allergies are known, listed, and visible in the classroom.

QUOTE CORNER

"Early educators must be aware of the pressures that come from a focus on ability in schooling because of the emphasis that they are getting children school ready. A key question to ask is what are you actually getting children ready for? And does this readiness account for meaningful inclusion? School readiness is a huge agenda which shapes the paradigms and curriculums that are used, and unfortunately such things are also underpinned by ableism"



– Murphy, K. 2025. Neurodiversity–
Affirming Practices in Early
Childhood. Routledge.

SUMMER SUMMIT 2026 RECAP!

We had a blast at Summer Summit 2026! During the Phonics Companion in Kindergarten Session, we learned how to teach a Phonics Companion lesson and the importance of blending words in connection with the English Language Arts and Literature curriculum. Teachers took back some grapheme visual card goodies as well as a pack of take home reading sheets for their classrooms.

SESSION FEEDBACK



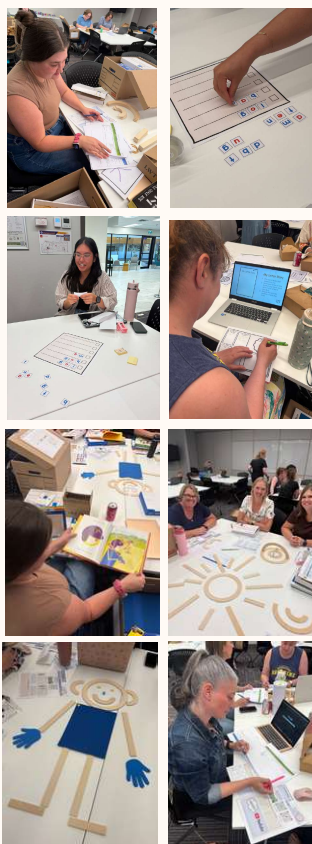
One Thing I Will Try in the Next Two Weeks is...

"Mat Man."

"Handwriting Without Tears songs with pieces."

"Putting out wooden pieces for children to explore and create after teaching the vocabulary."

"Introducing pieces using the song."



During the Handwriting Without Tears Session, we learned how children need a personal interest and connection to letters when it comes to alphabet knowledge and why we can move away from "Letter of the Week." Teachers took a box of Handwriting Without Tears resources for their classroom after learning songs, games, and activities that support pre-writing in Kindergarten as an alternative to traditional printing books.

Teachers who did not attend Summer Summit will receive their box of resources during Division Focused PD on Thursday, January 14, 2027.

Wondering what resources should be in every Kindergarten classroom? Check out the Kindergarten Resource List.

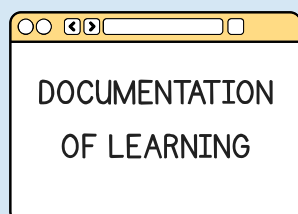
UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN KINDERGARTEN



Come learn about all things Kindergarten in ECSD, whether you are new to Kindergarten, the division, the grade, the province, or the country.



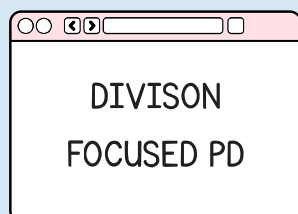
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
8:30 - 3:30
Room 1 - Lumen Christi
Book a sub using Code 39



Each Kindergarten program is required to have portfolios for all children. Learn about SpacesEDU, paper portfolios, hybrid models, or pizza boxes to document evidence of learning with young children.

SAVE THE DATE

Session 1: October 8, 2026
Session 2: April 22, 2027
1:15 - 3:30
Location TBD



Mark your calendars for 4 afternoons with our Calling All Kindergarten Captains group. We are going to be exploring Advent, printing & literacy skills, Math & loose parts, and Indigenous connections within the curriculum.

SAVE THE DATE

Session 1: October 22, 2026
Session 2: January 14, 2027
Session 3: March 11, 2027
Session 4: May 27, 2027
1:15 - 3:30
Room 3A/B

PRE-WRITING SHAPE SENSORY BAGS



Combine sensory fun with pre-writing practice to help build fine motor skills and scaffold letter formation. At this centre, laminating pouches with paint have been sealed around the edges and combined with pre-printing writing tablets to encourage children to trace or recreate lines and shapes with their fingers. This provides teachers an opportunity to observe children's fine motor strength to prepare for writing.

COMPETENCY PROGRESSIONS:

Research and Managing Information: I use my senses to learn about the world around me.

Creativity and Innovation: I use my imagination to combine materials or ideas to create something new.

CLASS PROMISE

After reading the story "I Promise" by Lebron James, the St. Paul Kindergarten class brainstormed rules, expectations and commitments that help create a safe, caring, and welcoming classroom community. Together, the class created a "Promise Sun," where each child signed their name and contributed to a promise. This collaborative display remained in their classroom throughout the school year as a reminder of the commitments they made to one another and as an opportunity to reflect on and revisit their promises as they learned and grew together.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Learning Outcome: Children explain how cooperation contributes to achieving common goals.

- Determine rules and expectations for group work.



TAKING PHOTOS FOR FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

Real life visuals support children in building independence skills at the beginning of the school year. Here, in order to help make dismissal more successful, the teacher took photos of the 4 steps children needed to follow (find their locker, open their locker, retrieve their items, place their indoor shoes on the boot rack). Adding ordinal numbers to each photo meaningfully integrates numeracy skills while having children sequence events. The children reviewed the directions as a whole group by looking at the photos on the interactive whiteboard and the teacher printed some hard copies for the hallway.

MATH:

Learning Outcome: Children interpret time as a sequence of events.

- Sequence events, limited to two events, according to time, using words or ordinal numbers.

