

Administrative Procedure 210

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Background

Early Childhood Services utilize a continuum of programming that is developmentally appropriate and meets the diverse needs of young children and their families. A play-based learning environment shall exist as the standard that guides program development and delivery.

Definitions


Early Childhood Programs: are those programs that support the developmental needs of children before they enter grade one. Young children participate as active partners in learning, build a set of shared experiences and develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that prepare them for subsequent learning. Early Childhood Programs may provide additional support for children with identified needs to assist their access to learning by removing barriers.

Kindergarten: one (1) component of the total Early Childhood Programs as funded by Alberta Education and referring to the year immediately prior to grade one.

Procedures

1. Early Education Programs
 - 1.1 Children who meet criteria for Program Unit Funding shall requalify each year for a maximum of two years;
 - 1.2 A child, identified with severe disabilities or delay(s), must be at least two (2) years and eight (8) months of age to access Early Childhood Programming;
 - 1.3 A child, identified with mild/moderate disability(s) or delay(s), must be at least three (3) years and eight (8) months of age to access Early Childhood Programming;
 - 1.4 Each child accessing Early Childhood Programming will have developmentally appropriate programs with supports and services as needed. The child's individual program plan will be developed collaboratively, engaging parents in a meaningful way; and

- 1.5 Current provincial and divisional regulations with respect to safety standards, programs, policies, teachers, records, finance, and insurance will be strictly maintained.
- 2. Kindergarten Programs
 - 2.1 A child who, as of September 1 of the current school year, is younger than 6 (six) years of age shall be eligible for entrance to the Kindergarten program.
 - 2.2 The Division shall provide a Kindergarten program designed to enhance student abilities and skills, and address children's developmental needs.
 - 2.3 Kindergarten programs shall utilize an integrated play-based approach to learning which involves parents, staff and community.
 - 2.4 The program shall be consistent with the Kindergarten Program Statement prescribed by Alberta Education.

Reference: Education Act 3, 21, 32, 41, 197, 222 Early Childhood Regulation (87/2019) Early Childhood Policy 1.1.3 Funding Manual for School Authorities Standards for Special Education Standards for the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education Kindergarten: Guide to Implementation 2000 Guide to Education	
	Date Approved: April 1, 2021
	Reviewed or Revised: Executive: April, 2021

References shall be updated as required and do not require additional approval.