

# Tips for choosing a Kindergarten

Our biggest piece of advice is to attend open houses. Attend more than one so you can make an informed decision.

## Things to consider and what to ask at an open house:

- Bussing: Is the school near where you live? If not, does the school offer bussing?
- Type of program: Is it a full day or a half day? What works best for your child and family? What are the class sizes? How many adults in the classroom?
- Does the school offer any specialization, such as target programs (such as art, nature, science or sports), language opportunities or religious or cultural teachings?
- Does the school offer a breakfast or lunch program?
- What level of parent involvement is expected or allowed?
- If you require childcare, does the school offer before and after school care? If not, is there childcare nearby that could transport your child to and from school?
- What is the schools vision and mission and do they align with your family's?

### Skills to develop prior to Kindergarten:

- Social Emotional skills. Can they navigate being in a group setting? Can they follow the routines and expectations of the classroom?
- Resiliency! Can your child bounce back from a stressful situation?
- Self Help skills. Can your child attempt to dress themselves? Can they follow a toileting routine independently?

### More Tips or things to consider:

- Ask your neighbors about the school their child(ren) attends
- Some schools operate on a lottery system. See their websites for more information
- You will need documentation when registering for school! Be sure to bring your child's birth certificate or proof of citizenship (Permanent Resident card, visa, etc.)



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Edmonton Catholic Schools

[www.ecsd.net/locate-a-school](http://www.ecsd.net/locate-a-school)



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