



Magrath Elementary School

41 S Center Street Magrath, AB T0K 1J0

t: (403)758-3367 f: (403)752-3005

www.mes.westwind.ab.ca

Early Learning Program

Changes to the Program:

Three years ago Alberta Education changed their funding and program mandate for Pre-Kindergarten programming for children ages 3 years 8 months to five years of age. During the transition period, Westwind has tried to maintain consistency for children and families. However, with increasing student needs and reduced funding, our Early Learning Program (previously known as Preschool) must be adapted. ***Students will now be admitted into the program based on need first, as identified through a screening and assessment process. Community Play Partners (children without identified needs) will then be invited if space and staffing are sufficient to support additional children. This will be determined from year to year in later September after priority placements have been completed.***

The purpose of the program will be to prepare children who would not otherwise be prepared for kindergarten. Early Learning programming will support children by providing hands-on, play based, developmentally appropriate activities where children can engage with peers and develop in areas that include: social/emotional skills, cognitive skills, physical/motor skills and speech/language.

Booking a Screening Appointment:

If you feel your child has any delays in the skills described above, please [book a screening appointment](#). If you are unsure, we encourage you to book a screening. This form is open now. We will call you within 2 weeks to set up the screening appointment. ***We will inform you after the screen if your child qualifies for the program.***

Westwind will offer two different Early Learning Programs by age groups as defined by Alberta Education:

- **Children who turn 3 years old by Dec. 31** of the current school year (this program is for children with severe delays only)
- **Children who turn 4 years old by Dec. 31** of the current school year (this is for children with mild/moderate and/or severe delays and include delays in speech/language, behavior or have a current medical or physical diagnosis).

Fees:

All fees will be collected in the fall. The Early Learning Program is:

- At no cost for students with severe needs.
- \$100 for the **year** for students with mild/moderate needs.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for students entering kindergarten will open on March 1, 2023. Magrath Elementary School offers Kindergarten to students that are 5 years old prior to December 31, 2022. Please only register your child with the group that you intend them to move with through grade 12. It is inappropriate to register a child in kindergarten with a preconceived plan to repeat for a second year. We ask that any parents who are considering this to instead register their child for the Early Learning Program or to wait before registering for kindergarten.

Fees:

All fees will be collected in the fall. The Kindergarten Fee is \$125 (\$100 fees + \$25 supplies).

Day/Time Preferences for Kindergarten and Early Learning

Magrath Elementary School is fortunate to have an excellent staff. We are confident that your child will encounter a well-prepared teacher who is committed to student success, no matter what classroom they are placed in. We will do our best to place students according to the day/time preferences that you indicate; however, *there is no guarantee of this*. Classes will be balanced according to student needs first.