

COME GROW WITH US!

# Sturgeon Public Schools

## Pre-K

2025-2026 School Year



W: [www.sturgeon.ab.ca](http://www.sturgeon.ab.ca)

P: 780-939-4341



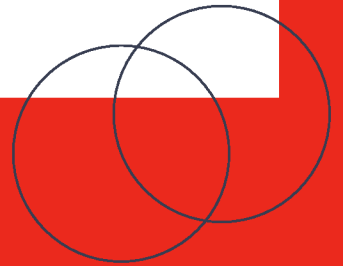
# Growing with Pre-K

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN WITH STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome to Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K)! The first day of school is a new and exciting adventure for children, parents, and teachers. We are excited to be part of your child's learning journey. The Pre-K program is dynamic, innovative, and engaging. This handbook helps to illustrate the learning your child will engage in this year. Our goal is to grow roots and create a foundation for future academic, social and emotional success. In partnership with you, our consultants, and classrooms teams, we will enhance your child's learning opportunities and experiences. We look forward to working with you. Welcome to Sturgeon Public Schools!



*Erin Murphy - Director of Education*



## LOCATIONS THAT OFFER PRE-K PROGRAMMING

- Bon Accord Community School
- Camilla School
- Guthrie School
- Landing Trail School
- Legal Public School
- Morinville Public School
- Ochre Park School

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### PHONE

780-939-4341

### WEBSITE

[www.sturgeon.ab.ca](http://www.sturgeon.ab.ca)





# About us

## THE PRE-K PHILOSOPHY



To meet the needs of children by nurturing and validating their strengths and supporting children using a team approach, to reach their optimal development within a safe, play based, Reggio-inspired environment

## IN OUR REGGIO INSPIRED PRE-K CLASSROOMS WE VALUE...

- CHILDREN HAVING CHOICES OVER LEARNING PROCESS
- CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS AND ENGAGING THEIR CURIOSITY
- INSPIRING A LOVE OF LIFE-LONG LEARNING IN CHILDREN
- CONNECTING WITH COMPASSION AND CREATING A SAFE PLACE FOR LEARNING
- COMMUNICATING IN A POSITIVE, CLEAR, OPEN AND HONEST MANNER
- CHILDREN HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHILDREN AND THE ENVIRONMENT



# Guiding Principles



## AGE APPROPRIATE

Young children learn best when activities and expectations meet their developmental levels.

## PLAY BASED

Young children learn and develop best through play opportunities that provoke curiosity and exploration of a wide variety of materials during unstructured and structured activities.

## INTERACTIVE

Young children develop skills through play experiences that involve touching, moving, listening, seeing, hearing and exploring both indoors and outdoors and express their knowledge in a variety of ways.

## COLLABORATIVE

Young children develop social relationship skills with peers and adults through engaging in collaborative play activities.

## PARTNERSHIP

Parents and families are key members of the educational team!



# Positive Behaviour Support

Positive Behaviour Support is a well-documented approach to bring out the best behaviour in children. Our Pre-K Program focus is on building positive relationships, developing positive classroom environments, teaching appropriate skills and establishing expectations. In Pre-K we focus on 3 simple expectations that capture the key components of this approach:

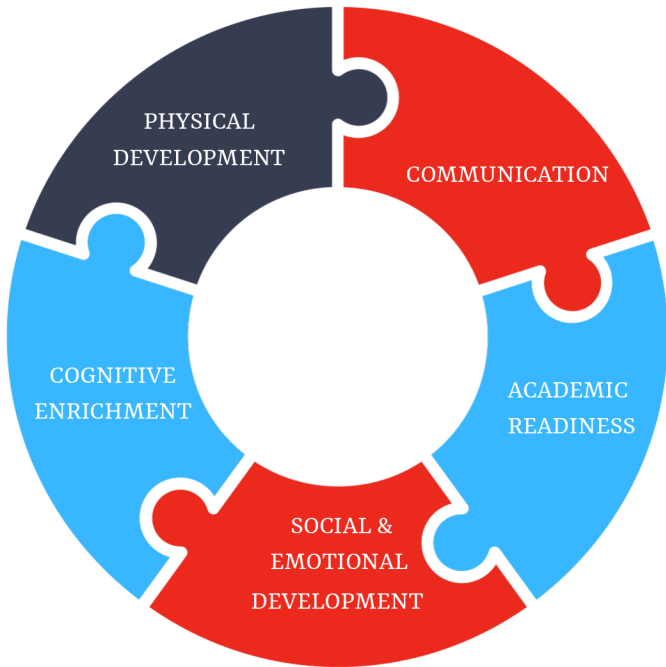
BE SAFE

BE A FRIEND

BE A LEARNER



# Our Program



## PROGRAM DETAILS

- Children must qualify for the program as per Alberta Education Guidelines
- Classes are half day (am or pm)
- Children born in 2021 with mild moderate or severe needs, or those who are cognitively advanced/gifted are eligible to qualify
- Children born in 2022 with a significant need and are Program Unit Funded (PUF) are eligible to qualify
- Pre-K is overseen by the Director of Education, and administered by Early Childhood Educators. Programming is supported by consultants, therapy assistants, and educational assistants.
- Children who qualify for Program Unit Funding (PUF) may be eligible for 2 years of Pre-K programming depending on age

## INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM PLANS (IPPS)

Every child in Pre-K has an Individual Program Plan (IPP) that meets their specific learning needs in the areas that may include communication, social and emotional development and self help skills. Parents take an active role in the development and implementation of these goals.

"The smile on my face gets bigger when I play"  
~ Every Child



# Who Supports our Programming

## **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

The Director of Education oversees the Pre-K Program. Pre-Kindergarten uses developmentally appropriate teaching practices, focusing on teaching in ways that match the way children develop and learn. This approach sets the stage for children's curiosity and imaginations to be sparked to motivate them to learn!

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR**

Under the guidance of the Director of Education, Early Childhood Educators facilitate classroom instruction, working alongside the consultant team.

## **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT (EA)**

The Education Assistant (EA) supports children to maximize their learning potential. We all learn in different ways and EAs provide direct and small group support to children. The EA works directly under the supervision of the Early Childhood Educator.

## **SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (SLP)**

Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) work with children to help develop all aspects of their communication skills. Age-appropriate skills will be integrated into the classroom to develop children's: speech sounds, understanding of language, use of language, social communication, and pre-literacy skills. Communication goals are supported by the classroom staff and the family in collaboration with Speech Language Pathologists.

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (OT)**

Occupational Therapists (OT) help provide strategies to promote fine motor, self-help or sensory regulation skill development at school and home, so that children are ready to learn, and participate fully in activities. Assistance may also be provided to address equipment needs, access to technology and classroom strategies/modifications.

## **EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST**

The Educational Psychologist's services to support Pre-K can include assessments for eligibility for the Pre-K program, guidance to program staff, and consultations/ collaboration with other professionals.

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (OTA)**

Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) work under the supervision of Occupational Therapists. An OTA may carry out programming related to OT scope of practice areas, for children with OT needs at school.

## **SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANT (SLPA)**

Speech Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA) work under the supervision of Speech Language Pathologists. A SLPA may carry out programming related to SLP scope of practice areas and offer small group or direct intervention for children with speech and language needs at school.

## **EA COACH**

The Educational Assistant Coach provides direct support, training, collaboration, and coaching for Educational Assistants who are supporting children with complex medical, behavioural, and/or communication needs.







# The Curriculum

“Developmentally appropriate practice means teaching in ways that match the way children develop and learn so as to promote their optimal development and learning.”

-The Creative Curriculum, Dodge, Colker, Heroman & Bickert 2010

## THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM®

The Creative Curriculum Checklist and documentation are used to help guide programming and evaluate children's progress. The Creative Curriculum is based on research on how children learn. The application of this body of knowledge has been organized into a teaching guide that focuses on providing children with developmentally appropriate activities. It is well documented that children learn best through play through activities that match their developmental level, and that are based on their interests. Our Pre-K program approach is to develop a lifelong passion for learning and exploration. The focus is on children's natural development and close connection to their environment. Children are viewed as capable, creative, curious and full of potential. They are active participants in education, and activities are often built around the interests expressed by the children in the class. The following curricular areas are focused on:

- 🧩 Literacy
- 🧩 Numeracy
- 🧩 Early Learning Readiness
- 🧩 Language and Communication Development
- 🧩 Social/Emotional Skills
- 🧩 Fine and Gross Motor Skills



# A Day in Pre-K



Pre-K classrooms are busy places! Children participate in a variety of different learning opportunities at school. Activities may include: circle time, center time, library, movement, snack time, and play or exploration activities outdoors. Speech therapy intervention often takes place during center time. Occupational Therapist and Educational Psychologist provide consultation strategies based on classroom observations to help children to be ready to learn.

## MOVEMENT PLAY

May include creative movement, dance, gross motor games, obstacle courses, activities with equipment, scooters, outside play, gym time and other movement breaks.

## CENTER TIME

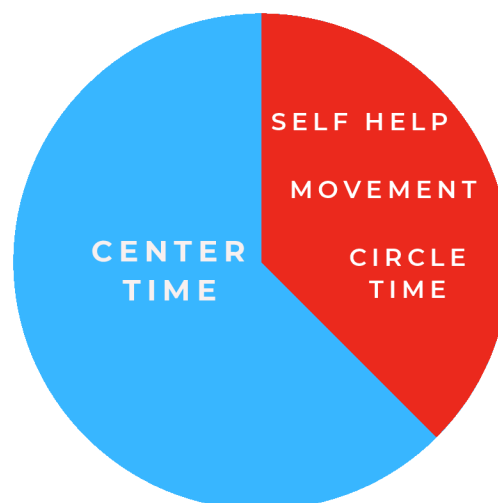
Learning centers offer children an opportunity to learn through using a wide variety of play activities and materials. See the following descriptions of what skills can be developed during center time play with other children.

## CIRCLE TIME

Structured teaching time that includes a wide variety of activities such as books and stories, action songs, whole group games or other learning activities.

## SELF HELP

Includes snack time, dressing, and bathroom breaks.



"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning"

~ Mr. Rogers





# A Closer look into Centers



## ARTS & CREATIVE EXPRESSION

This center builds skills in the area of creativity, fine motor skills, cutting, coloring, painting, gluing, tracing, following simple directions, making choices, expressing preferences, illustrating thoughts, social skills, communication, and concept development (colors, shapes, numbers and letters).

## DRAMATIC PLAY

This center includes house, restaurant, school, store, vet, office and post office. It builds skills in the areas of interactive, imaginative and cooperative play, problem solving, helping, turn taking, nurturing, socialization, and role playing real-life situations.

## PUZZLES & GAMES

This center build skills in the areas of fine motor coordination, matching, problem solving, independent, parallel and interactive play, and concepts (shapes, numbers, colors and letters).

## SCIENCE/NATURE

This centers builds skills in the areas of fine motor, manipulating, rolling, imaginative play, sharing, turn taking, socialization, tactile and color recognition.

## THEMED TOYS

This center includes vehicles, animals, food, dinosaurs, dolls. Fine motor and gross motor skills, socialization, sharing, turn-taking, and manipulating.

## CONSTRUCTION

This center includes building blocks of various kinds and builds skills in the areas of imaginative play, building, socializing, problem solving, sharing, and cooperation.

## EXPLORATION PLAY

This center includes loose parts and imagination stations. This center builds skills in the area of fine motor and gross motor skills, socialization, manipulating, imaginative play, and discovery.

## LITERACY CENTER

This center builds skills in the areas of pre-literacy skills, speech and language skills, listening skills, logical thinking, and learning that reading is interesting and fun.

## QUIET CENTER

This center is a self-regulation space for quiet and calming and/or gross motor movement to positively expend energy.

## SENSORY PLAY

This center may include sand, water, beans, play-doh, and plasticine. Socialization, tactile, discovery, pouring, blowing bubbles, turn taking, and cooperative/imaginative play are explored.



# Parents as Partners



Pre-K will help prepare your child for a successful school career. As parents, you are your child's first and most influential teachers. There are many ways you can spark your child's love for learning.

## **BUILD INDEPENDENCE**

Teach your child the skills to become independent. Let them dress themselves and encourage them to ask for help if they need it. Allow them to care for their own belongings. Independence helps build children's self-confidence!



## **BUILD LITERACY SKILLS**

Read with your child every day. It encourages a love for reading and develops their language skills.



## **BUILD CURIOSITY**

Allow your child to explore the world around them. Encourage them to be curious! Explore with them!

## **BUILD COMMUNICATION**

Talk with your child about the events of the day. Ask them what they think and how they feel. Good communication skills will carry your child throughout their life.

**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING STURGEON  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PLACING YOUR  
TRUST IN US**





# OUR SCHOOLS THAT OFFER PRE-K PROGRAMMING

## BON ACCORD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

☎ 780-921-3559

📍 Box 300, Hwy 28, Range Rd 240, Bon Accord

✉ [baccord@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:baccord@sturgeon.ab.ca)

## GUTHRIE SCHOOL

☎ 780-973-3111

📍 Box 299, 198 Range Rd 244, Lancaster Park

✉ [guthrie@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:guthrie@sturgeon.ab.ca)

## LEGAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

☎ 780-961-0133

📍 Box 180, 5109 46 St, Legal

✉ [lps@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:lps@sturgeon.ab.ca)

## CAMILLA SCHOOL

☎ 780-939-2074

📍 #146, 26500 Hwy 44, Sturgeon County

✉ [camilla@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:camilla@sturgeon.ab.ca)

## LANDING TRAIL SCHOOL

☎ 780-923-2898

📍 Box 1050, 5301-37 Ave, Gibbons

✉ [ltrail@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:ltrail@sturgeon.ab.ca)

## MORINVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

☎ 780-939-3445

📍 10020-101 Ave, Morinville

✉ [mpes@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:mpes@sturgeon.ab.ca)

## OCHRE PARK SCHOOL

☎ 780-942-2901

📍 Box 30, 5024 Ochre Park Rd, Redwater

✉ [opark@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:opark@sturgeon.ab.ca)



Website: [www.sturgeon.ab.ca](http://www.sturgeon.ab.ca)

Phone: 780-939-4341

Handbook Created 2023

Handbook Updated 2025



**Sturgeon  
Public Schools**  
Dare to reimagine learning