



École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School

With Christ as our ever-present teacher, in an environment rich in French Language and culture, we ensure every child succeeds: personally, spiritually, academically.

8 Sandpiper Drive
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epk.eics.ab.ca

Pre-kindergarten Orientation Package

YOU'VE MADE A GREAT CHOICE!

Welcome to École Père Kenneth Kearns and Pre-Kindergarten

We are so excited to welcome you and your child to ÉPK and our pre-kindergarten. It is a privilege to be a part of their learning journey and we can't wait to get started. Enclosed you will find information to prepare you for the upcoming school year.

Thank you for choosing ÉPK!

École Père Kenneth Kearns Pre-kindergarten and School Leadership Team

STARTING PRE-KINDERGARTEN WITH EASE

Small Group Orientation:

Recognizing that coming to school for the first time may be a little stressful for young children (and parents too) and to help ease the transition from home to school we have planned a staggered entry for our pre-kindergarten students. Your child will come on either September 5th or 6th and he/she will attend from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. The smaller group size helps the teacher to get to know your child a little better and facilitates the introduction of new routines.

Please see attached letter for your child's Staggered Entry Appointment.

If you have any questions, please contact us. ÉPK school office will remain open until Wednesday, June 28th, 2023. After this day, if you prefer to call, please leave a voicemail as the office will re-open August 21st, 2023. We



will respond to all emails and voicemail messages received throughout the summer during the week of August 21 – August 30th, 2023.

GETTING STARTED

First Day of School – After your staggered entry
Thursday, September 7th, 2023

Class Times

Pre-kindergarten Class:

- 8:45AM to 11:30AM
- Tuesday through Friday throughout the year

Attached to the orientation package is the “Year at a glance” Pre-K Calendar. It can also be accessed at <https://epk.eics.ab.ca/calendar>.



WHERE TO PARK

- Visitor parking is available in any stall in front of the school
- Back parking lot
- On Flamingo Drive.

We thank you in advance for being courteous to our neighbors by keeping their driveways available for access.

WHAT TO BRING

We ask that your child brings the following personal items:

- A pair of runners with white soles, preferably with Velcro closure (to be kept at school)
- Backpack & Snack bag
- Water Bottle



- A set of spare clothing for your child (pants, shirt, socks and underwear in a labeled Ziploc bag – Which will be left at the school)

Please label these items with your child's name so they can easily be identified and returned if misplaced.



Your child's school supply list should accompany this orientation package however it is also available at <https://epk.eics.ab.ca/parents/school-supply-lists>.

Please bring all supplies to your Staggered Entry Session.

Helping your child become independent is a fantastic gift!

Please prepare your children to dress themselves by having them practice fastening their coat and shoes.

SNACKS

Your child's day will include snack time. Please ensure that your child has a small, nut free snack daily. We encourage water as the choice for a beverage. We are a "nut - sensitive" school and recommend that you read labels carefully to help ensure that snacks are nut free.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS AWAY FROM SCHOOL

If your child is not attending school, please contact the school and share:

- the name of your child
- his/her homeroom classroom
- the reason for the absence
- the duration of the absence

Absences can be reported in several ways:

- Please go to the Safe Arrival website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/signup>
- Call the toll-free number: 1-877-246-9970



- Report the absence through the smartphone mobile APP: SchoolMessenger
- Email us at epk@eics.ab.ca

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact us at the school at 780-467-7135

To ensure student safety, we check student attendance every morning.

WHAT IS EPK PARENT COUNCIL?

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School also has a fantastic School Council. Each month they meet to help guide the direction of the school, assist in decision making that affect all ÉPK students and keep up to date on the amazing opportunities for students. They also plan and coordinate special events, as well as establish fundraising opportunities to support Faith experiences at school, and many Cultural events. It is also an excellent way to get to know other parents in the school and develop lasting relationships. As a parent of a child(ren) attending ÉPK, you are encouraged to attend meetings as well as participate in the planning and volunteering for events. Ensuring we have Pre-kindergarten parent voices is vital. All meeting dates are posted on the school website at epk.eics.ab.ca under Parents.



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL START

For some children, starting pre-kindergarten might sound super exciting, but for others, it is quite intimidating. After all, a child has to experience and adjust to a completely new environment which can be pretty scary (even for parents). If your child is having mixed feelings about starting pre-



kindergarten, don't worry about it. It is absolutely normal to feel overwhelmed with different emotions. Here are a few back to school tips for parents of pre-kindergarteners!

Get a school routine going early

Summertime schedules are often different from school year schedules, and there's nothing wrong with that. However, kids do well with routines so establishing a school routine early is important.

Get appropriate gear for your pre-kindergartener

There are tons of cute and fun school supplies out there! A tiny backpack is not very useful. The backpack should be able to hold a water bottle, a snack bag and on occasion treasures your child has created.

Talk and read about school

Listen to your pre-kindergartener and answer any questions they might have. Share insights into when you were in school and all the fun you had there. Books about school are a great way to generate conversation.

Encourage independence

While no one expects a 4 year old to do everything on their own, age appropriate independence is important. Some important tasks would include dressing and toileting themselves and cleaning up after themselves. While perfection isn't necessary, working towards independence is the goal.

Prepare for back-to-school emotions

Sometimes young children deal with separation anxiety when school time rolls around. Honestly, some parents have trouble separating from their children too. In both cases, those feelings are totally normal! Many of the above tips will help ease school anxieties. Children adjust to new experiences and in no time they will wave good-bye to you and join their friends to have a morning of fun.

