

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN


New Westminster Schools

New Westminster Schools recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.



NEWWESTSCHOOLS.CA

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 @NewWestSchools



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WELCOME TO NEW WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS!

This brochure is designed to provide you with essential information on registration for kindergarten, what to expect, and how to support your child throughout their kindergarten journey.

We look forward to creating a positive and enriching experience for your child.

REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN



Regular kindergarten registration opens **Monday November 3, 2025, and closes on Friday, January 30, 2026**, but we accept applications year-round.

Children are eligible to attend kindergarten on the year they turn five (i.e., we will accept four-year-old students if they turn five that same year when they start school). You may choose to hold your child back for one year if you believe they are not ready. In general:

- Children born in 2021 may start kindergarten in September 2026
- Children born in 2022 may start kindergarten in September 2027.
- Children born in 2023 may start kindergarten in September 2028.

How to register your child

- Book a 10-minute appointment with our Registration Team.
- If you need a translator for your appointment, please let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate your request.
- Please visit the **Welcome Centre** to register in person located at:
 - **820 – 6th Street, New Westminister** (on the south side of the New Westminister Secondary School building), **Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Documents required

After you book your appointment, download, and complete the registration form and bring the required documentation to your appointment.

For information please visit <https://newwestschools.ca/programs-services/early-learning/kindergarten/>

WHEN I GO TO KINDERGARTEN

When I go to KINDERGARTEN is a booklet provided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Help prepare your child for kindergarten by working through this booklet. You can use the booklet to record things that your child is good at and things that are important to them. Use it as a keepsake to remember your child before they go to kindergarten or share it with your child's teachers.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

My Well-Being and Belonging



During the early years, children develop quickly. Their bodies and brains are growing, and they learn through play. Children's experiences differ across cultures and communities so their play may look different in various settings, but its power to delight and captivate children's hearts and minds is universal.

My Ways of Communicating



PLAY is the work of children

Play encourages children to be curious, creative, and engaged lifelong learners. It provides children with the motivation to explore, come up with ideas, connect with others, and imagine new possibilities. Play is a platform for learning from birth into adulthood and it is the main vehicle for inspired learning. During play, children explore, ask questions, and use their senses to experiment and make sense of the world around them.

My Sense of Who I Am



Research tells us that parent involvement supports positive outcomes for children. Moreover, as noted in the BC Early Learning Framework: "families are the first teachers, the primary caregivers, and the knowledge holders of their children. Families have the most significant role in promoting their children's well-being and learning." (BC Early Learning Framework, 2019, p.16).

My Interactions with the World Around Me



School readiness means children are ready to learn, be independent, socialize and make friends. Here is how, together, we support kindergarten readiness:

Getting ready to LEARN

- Make sure your child gets nine to ten hours of sleep at night. Try for an 8 p.m. bedtime.
- Prepare a healthy breakfast for your child along with nutritious snacks for the day.
- Read daily with parents/caregivers and other family members.
- Prepare your child to use crayons, pencils, paper, glue, and scissors.
- Help your child recognize their own name.
- Have conversations with your child about their day, their likes, and interests.
- Ask your child questions and explore their ideas.
- Sit for 10-15 minutes to listen to a story or join a group discussion.
- Take part in daily physical activity (e.g., walks, biking, playground visits).
- Spend no more than an hour a day on electronic devices (e.g., computers, tablets, or television)

Getting Ready for INDEPENDENCE

- Help your child get comfortable with using the washroom on their own and washing and drying their hands.
- Help your child practice with the buttons and zippers on their clothing.
- Teach your child how to hang up their coat and put on and take off their shoes.
- Help your child learn how to open and close food containers and eat independently.
- Teach your child how to clean up after themselves and how to be responsible for their own materials.
- Teach your child how to zip and unzip their backpack and to carry their own things.

Getting ready to SOCIALIZE

- Social and emotional well-being lead to success in kindergarten.
- Help your child learn how to play cooperatively through turn-taking and sharing.
- Teach your child the names of feelings and emotions like sad, happy, and angry.
- Help your child understand terms like "safe" and "unsafe" and "friendly" and "unfriendly".
- Let your child experience playing with others of the same age through playdates and family gatherings.
- Teach your child to wait for their turn, listen to others, and speak clearly.
- Help your child understand and follow simple, multi-step directions.
- Teach your child to be respectful towards others, including peers, siblings, and adults in the family, school, and the community.
- Teach your child to show compassion and empathy by being kind towards others.
- Help your child understand their unique and special role in the family and make them feel appreciated and loved.

LET'S PLAY

ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES



SCAN ME

According to the BC Ministry of Education, families and caregivers support children's early learning experiences through playing and having fun. Scan the QR code to the left to read the Ministry's **"Let's Play!"** brochure for family activities that foster your child's interests and ideas and encourage exploration. Enjoy sharing stories with your child! Each activity has one or more suggested books related to the activity themes or topics

YOUR ROADMAP TO KINDERGARTEN



KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION SESSION OCTOBER 20, 2025

Location: New Westminster Secondary School, 820 Sixth Street, New Westminister

- Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- Presentation begins at 7 p.m.
- This is an in-person, adult- only event.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Location: Welcome Centre, 820 Sixth Street, New Westminister

- **Opens** - Monday, November 3, 2025
- **Closes** - Friday, January 30, 2026

BEFORE YOUR BEDTIME PARENT SESSION

New Westminister Schools cordially invites parents and guardians of children born in 2021 to a virtual three-part series on key topics that will enable their child's smooth transition to kindergarten. These sessions entitled "Before your Bedtime" are intended for parents and guardians. Please join district staff and guest speakers to these informative sessions followed by a Q&A.

All sessions on Teams.

An invitation will be sent to the email you provide at registration.

BEFORE YOUR BEDTIME

New Westminister Schools cordially invites **parents and guardians of children born in 2021** to a virtual three-part series on key topics that will enable their child's smooth transition to Kindergarten. These sessions entitled 'Before your Bedtime' are intended for parents and guardians. Please join district staff and guest speakers to these informative sessions followed by a Q&A.

Empowering parents and guardians

TOPICS AND DATES:

Feb 9, 2026: Social-Emotional Learning: Sleep, Nutrition, Everyday Anxiety and Physical Literacy
March 9, 2026: Foundations of learning: Play, Early Learning Framework and the First Peoples Principles of Learning.
April 9, 2026: Literacy and Numeracy -Play based practical tools and strategies

**All sessions are on Teams
6:00 to 6:45 p.m.**

For more information, contact inelson@sd40.bc.ca

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New Westminister Schools

READY, SET, LEARN

All New Westminster elementary schools will be hosting Ready Set Learn Pop-up play events throughout April designed to welcome you and your child to the school grounds.

It only pops up for a day, so don't miss it!

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to Kindergarten school site specific events take place throughout May and June.

You will receive invitations by email from the school.

A photograph of a "Pop-up Play" display. It features a sign that says "Wolves are communicators. They are intelligent, powerful and playful. They symbolize loyalty and strength." Next to it is a basket filled with various toys, including a small fox figurine, a small house, and some greenery. The display is set on a white, textured surface.

POP-UP PLAY

We invite your child to come, explore, play, and become more comfortable in the school setting – and for you to meet the school team and connect with other families.

It only pops up for a day, so don't miss it!

"Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul"
F. Froebel, founder of the Kindergarten (1826)

Elementary School	Address	Pop-up Play Event
Connaught Heights	2201 London Street,	April 7, 2026 from 4 to 5 pm
F.W. Howay	91 Courtney Crescent	April 8, 2026 from 4 to 5 pm
Herbert Spencer	605 Second Street	April 14, 2026 from 4 to 5 pm
Qayqayt	85 Merivale Street	April 15, 2026 from 4 to 5 pm
Lord Kelvin	1010 Hamilton Street	April 20, 2026 from 4 to 5 pm
Lord Tweedsmuir	1714 Eight Avenue	April 22, 2026 from 4 to 5 pm
Queen Elizabeth	921 Salter Street	April 29, 2026 from 4 to 5 pm
Skwo: wech	331 Richmond Street	April 30, 2026 from 4 to 5 pm

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New Westminster Schools

OVER THE SUMMER

Listen and talk to your child about what Kindergarten will be like. Express enthusiasm. Visit the school playground. You can use the "When I go to Kindergarten" booklet to record things that your child is good at and things that are important to them. Use it as a keepsake to remember your child before they go to kindergarten or share it with your child's teachers.

SEPTEMBER KINDERGARTEN GRADUAL ENTRY

What is Kindergarten Gradual Entry?

Kindergarten Gradual Entry is a developmental approach to transition planning that recognizes the important connections between the child, teachers, family, peers, and the wider community. It is designed to give young children time to gradually adjust to the school environment.

What does Kindergarten Gradual Entry look like?

For the first two weeks of school, children will follow a shortened schedule to help them ease into their new routines and build a strong foundation for a successful year. All families are invited to a Welcoming Conversation with the kindergarten teacher. The second week of school, children gradually attend over the lunch period with and by the third Monday in September, all children are attending a full day.

What does it mean for my child?

Gradual entry helps your child feel safe and confident as they start Kindergarten. It provides focused time to connect with the kindergarten teacher and other kindergarteners helping them feel welcomed, supported, and ready to be part of the school community. During this time, teachers will introduce classroom routines and help children adjust to the social and emotional context of a large elementary school.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS

Welcome Centre and Registration team: 604 517 6200
Indigenous Education: 604 220 6140
Neighbourhood Learning Centre: 778 874 5457
Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) team: 604 517 6309
New Westminster Child Care Resources and Referral: 604 931 3400
Kinsight: 604 525 9494.

NEW WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Elementary School	Address	Contact number
Connaught Heights	2201 London Street,	604 517 6010
F.W. Howay	91 Courtney Crescent	604 517 6020
Herbert Spencer	605 Second Street	604 517 6030
Qayqayt	85 Merivale Street	604 517 6050
Lord Kelvin	1010 Hamilton Street	604 517 6060
Lord Tweedsmuir	1714 Eight Avenue	604 517 6070
Queen Elizabeth	921 Salter Street	604 517 6080
Skwo:wech	331 Richmond Street	604 517 6090

YOUR NOTES: