

St. Albert Public Schools Preschool

Frequently-Asked Questions

Where is the St. Albert Public Preschool located?

We have three locations: St. Albert Public Schools District Office (60 Sir Winston Churchill Ave.), Wild Rose Elementary School (58 Grenfell Ave.) and Keenooshayo Elementary School (40 Woodlands Road).

**Please note that all registrations and inquiries happen through the district office location.

How many children do you have in each classroom?

Our preschool is an inclusive preschool environment which has approximately six children who are receiving supports and services through PUF (Program Unit Funding) and eight community children who have age-appropriate development in each classroom.

How old do children need to be to attend?

Children who are receiving supports and services through PUF must have turned 2 years 6 months before September 1st. We will accept community children who have turned 2 years 6 months before September 1st as well, if they are showing age-appropriate development in the areas of language development and social skills. All community children go through a screening with our speech language pathologist and occupational therapist to ensure that they have age-appropriate development before beginning preschool.

What days do the children come to school?

All preschool children attend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Children receiving supports and services through PUF also attend on Fridays. The preschool follows the St. Albert Public Schools school year calendar.

Please note that our preschool is closed on Mondays and children do not attend on the first Wednesday of the month due to staff meeting.

What times do the morning and afternoon programs run each day?

All locations provide morning and afternoon programs. At the District Office location, the morning program is from 8:50 am-11:35 am and the afternoon program is from 12:30 pm-3:15 pm. The Wild Rose location offers the program from 8:45 am-11:30 am and the afternoon program from 12:30 pm -3:15 pm and the Keenooshayo location offers the morning program from 8:45 am-11:30 am and afternoon from 12:15 pm-3:00 pm.

What are your preschool fees?

Community children pay a fee of \$135 per month. There are no additional fees or fundraising within our preschool. Children receiving supports through PUF do not pay a fee for preschool. Some families are eligible for the "Stay at Home Parent Subsidy" from the Alberta government to help pay for their child's preschool fees. Parents can apply by completing a subsidy form. (See subsidy application form on our preschool website)

Does the preschool provide transportation for children?

We do not provide transportation for children in our program. Families are responsible for arranging transportation for their child. Families who have children receiving PUF supports are eligible for a transportation grant that helps to offset the cost of parent's driving their child to an early intervention program.

Do you allow for parent helpers in your preschool classrooms?

Yes we do allow for parent volunteers in our classrooms. All volunteers are required to have a criminal record check that is done each school year. Forms are provided by the preschool so that this process is free of charge. There is no obligation to volunteer and parents are asked to arrange for a time through their classroom teacher. We do not have parent volunteers in our classroom in the month of September as the children are settling in and developing relationships with the classroom staff and becoming acquainted with their new classroom.

Does the preschool go on field trips or have any special programs that happen?

Our preschool has a music teacher who comes in each week for a session with each classroom. We also go to Fountain Park Pool in the spring for a series of swimming lessons, where all children are supported at a level that is appropriate to them. We also go on one field trip per month to a variety of locations within our community. We encourage parents to volunteer if they are able; however, it is not an expectation.

Do children need to be potty trained to attend the preschool?

No the children do not need to be potty trained. Parents are responsible to communicate with the classroom staff about where their child is at in the process and to provide diapers or pull ups for throughout the day. We always keep extra on hand just in case.

Do you have an open house for families?

We do not do an open house in the spring but rather encourage families to arrange for a tour by calling our preschool at 780.419.6545. Our programming is individualized to the needs of the child, and parents may have specific questions that are best addressed in a smaller setting. We do have a parent information evening that happens once children have started in our program to share all of the information about the preschool. Preschool handbooks are mailed out to families along with a special letter to your child once classrooms are confirmed in June. The children are invited to a practice day in the spring, to come play at their new school. As well, families will receive a phone call from the preschool to be given a date and time once they have been determined. The children also practice in small groups at the beginning of the school year to ease them into the first days of preschool.

If you have any further questions about St. Albert Public Preschool please call our preschool secretary, Maureen Hodgson at 780.419.6545, Renee Lukie, District Coordinator, Preschool/PUF or Tracy Columbine, Preschool Curriculum Coordinator at 780.460.3712.