



Let's Talk About When To Start Kindergarten!

In BC, children can start kindergarten the year they are 5 years old by December 31. While most children start school the year they turn 5, families may choose to wait and start kindergarten the year their child turns 6 years old by December 31.

If a family is considering waiting until their child is 6 years old to start kindergarten, it is advised that they speak to their local school principal directly to ask questions, gather information, and understand the possible implications waiting to start kindergarten may have later in a child's K-12 journey. Once families have gathered all the information, they are able to make the best decision for when their child will start kindergarten.

Kindergarten programs are supportive of ALL children, whether they are still four years old or approaching age six when they start school. The learning outcomes in kindergarten recognize and celebrate that students reach their developmental milestones at different ages. In kindergarten, ALL children are given opportunities to learn and develop new social and academic skills with their peers in an inclusive, caring, and safe classroom setting.

Schools are ready to welcome ALL children and families including those with diverse needs. There are a variety of supports and services available at the school and district level. Learn more by visiting www.sd6.bc.ca or using the QR code to access the learning services page of the website.

Let's Talk About Kindergarten Programs!

Let's Talk About Potential Pros & Cons of Waiting to Start Kindergarten!

It is important to note that waiting until a child is 6 to start kindergarten does not guarantee improved outcomes. Also, schools do not hold children back to repeat grades, nor do they promote children by skipping grades.

There are many pieces to consider and discuss with your child's school related to when to start kindergarten, including but not limited to:

POTENTIAL BENEFITS of waiting until a child is turning 6	POTENTIAL OUTCOMES of waiting until a child is turning 6
Allows children another year at home to engage and learn fully with their family.	Taking an extra year at the beginning of the K-12 journey means giving up one year at the end which can impact a student who may need extra time to graduate.
Can provide some additional time for a child to mature.	Waiting to start school delays early intervention and supports that can be provided by the school team.
Can provide children and families time to further develop social skills that the child may not have learned yet.	Different skills develop at different rates. Children who are still learning social skills may have strong academic skills and these may be affected by a deferred start.
A combination of a child being young when entering kindergarten, along with concerns of a child's learning ability, may cause parents to wonder about the best time for their child to start kindergarten.	Research indicates that waiting to start kindergarten has no long-term effect on academic achievement. By Grade 3, early differences tend to disappear.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
School District #6

Scan the QR code to access Learning Services

