



Dear Kindergarten Families

Welcome to Brentwood Park School!

We are excited to welcome your child to kindergarten. Starting school is an important and special time in your child's life. The things you've already taught your child—like singing, laughing, and playing with language—will grow even more in the classroom.

Families are very important to a child's success at school. You can help your child by:

- Joining parent groups like the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
- Reading our Kindergarten Blog and school emails or newsletters
- Joining in the opportunities offered to look at your child's learning portfolio

Please take time to read this booklet. It will help you and your child get ready for school and have a happy and successful year at Brentwood Park.



Our Teaching Philosophy

Brentwood Park teachers recognize that every child is unique. Children learn in different ways and at their own speed, based on their interests and experiences.

Our kindergarten program helps the “whole child” grow—personally, socially, emotionally, and academically. We provide fun, hands-on activities, where children can talk, think, explore, and learn together.

Teachers may use tools like photos, portfolios, or digital platforms to show your child's learning. This helps children think about what they've learned, and it helps parents to better understand their child's growth.

At Brentwood Park: We care for ourselves, care for others, and care for our community.

Attendance and Health

It's very important for your child to come to school every day and on time. This helps your child learn a good routine and shows that school is important.

If your child is sick or will be late, please call the school at 604-296-9003. Tell us your child's name and division number.

Please keep your child home if they:

- Have a cold, cough, sore throat, or fever
- Have diarrhea, vomiting, or stomach problems
- Have a skin rash or other signs of illness

Before your child starts kindergarten, they should:

- Have a physical check-up
- Be fully vaccinated



A dental check-up, eye exam and hearing test are also suggested before September.

Please tell us if your child has health concerns (like allergies, vision or hearing problems, speech difficulties or heart conditions), so that we can best support them.

Getting Ready for School

Here are ways to help your child feel comfortable starting school:

- Walk by the school a few times and play on the playground
- Visit our Kindergarten Blog and talk about it with your child
- Practice opening backpacks and food containers
- Help your child learn how to zip jackets and put on shoes by themselves
- Practice using the washroom independently
- If your child feels nervous at the beginning, that's okay. Reassure them that it takes time to adjust to new situations. If your child experiences separation anxiety, take comfort in the fact that young children usually settle down quickly after you have left.

What Your Child Needs At School

Clothing:

- Dress your child in comfortable clothes they can put on by themselves
- We do messy activities (like painting and playing outside), so save nice clothes for special days
- Please send extra clothes (underwear, socks, t-shirt, pants) labelled with your child's name on each item



Backpack and Indoor Shoes:

- A large backpack is needed for carrying a snack and lunch, school notices, library books, artwork and other “treasures”
- Your child also needs “inside shoes” to wear inside the classroom to help keep it clean

School Supplies:

- We purchase primary school supplies at a discounted price. We will provide all school supplies needed for the year for a small fee (around \$35)
- You will get more information in September
- Your child's teacher will also share specific classroom details later

The Power of Reading

Reading with your child every day is one of the best ways to help them learn and grow. We'd like to end with a quote from children's author Rosemary Wells:

“Every day, make a quiet, restful place for twenty minutes. Put your child in your lap and read a book aloud. In the pages of the book, you will find a tiny vacation of privacy and intense love. It costs nothing but 20 minutes and a library card. Reading to your little one is just like putting gold coins in the bank. It will pay you back tenfold.”

Have a wonderful summer! We look forward to meeting you in September.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers

