

Why Public Kindergarten at Westbrook School?

- ✓ **Two full days to accommodate busy parents!** Tuesdays and Thursdays each week and one Friday per month. This assures that we meet Alberta Education's minimum of 475 hours per academic year.
- ✓ **Complete integration with the Westbrook School community including siblings in Grade 1 – 8.** Kindergarten students take part in all special events including the Christmas Concert, Artists in Residence, Hot Lunch and Milk Programs, Swim Program, Walk-a-thon, guest speakers and theatre troupes.
- ✓ **Seamless transition to Grade 1** as we already know each child and their needs.
- ✓ **Full access to Speech Language Pathologists once a week and Occupational Therapist on an as needed basis.**
- ✓ **Access to PUF (Program Unit Funding) and, where necessary, a Special Needs Assistant**
- ✓ **Affordable student fees: \$25.00/ student.**
- ✓ **Our Walk-a-thon fundraiser** has raised an average of **\$20 000.00 per year** over the past three years; all Westbrook students benefit with special programs and field trips.
- ✓ **Highly trained educational personnel** hired by the school principal and Rocky View Schools; this year we have an experienced ATA accredited teacher and two classroom assistants.
- ✓ **“One on one meeting” with the teacher before the school year begins and a staggered entry to ease “first week fears”.**
- ✓ **An active parent volunteer program**
- ✓ **Kindergarten parent representation on the Westbrook School Council**
- ✓ **Access to Rocky View School bus routes** including a bus from Cochrane
- ✓ An experienced school based administrator to make decisions based on regular parent input; **there is no the need for a parent board and constant meetings.**

Public Kindergarten at Westbrook School: Getting off to a great start!

Kindergarten is one of the most exciting times in a child's life. Westbrook School's goal is to ensure children make successful transitions from home to school.

Our Kindergarten program builds on what your child has already learned at home and in your community. It allows children to explore and experiment with their surroundings and to learn how to interact with other children. Based on Alberta Education's Kindergarten Program Statement, student programming focuses on seven areas of learning and assessment practices:



1. Early Literacy – Language is the basis of all communication. Early literacy engages children in acquiring language and building an understanding of how oral and written language works. Children develop social skills necessary for effective learning. Children listen to

stories. They draw and tell about their own experiences. They also form recognizable letters, learn to print their own names and experiment with new words and terms.

2. Early Numeracy - Through the exploration of numbers, shapes and patterns, early numeracy helps children understand the processes of mathematics. By learning to count, measure and compare objects, and through identifying and building patterns and shapes, children begin to develop problem-solving skills that they will continue to expand throughout their schooling.

3. Citizenship & Identity – Citizenship and identity help to build a child's self-esteem, sense of self, and sense of belonging. In Kindergarten, children explore what makes them unique and how they are connected to other people. They are encouraged to express themselves by sharing personal stories. Through their interactions with others, children learn to be sensitive, interested and responsible for their actions.

4. Environment & Community Awareness - Using their five senses, children investigate their environment and their community. Through role play and hands-on activities, such as building simple structures with sand, blocks and other materials, they become aware of the relationship between cause and effect and generate ideas to make personal sense of the environment.

5. Personal & Social Responsibility -

Kindergarten helps children learn how to work and play with others. This occurs by taking turns in activities and discussions, working cooperatively, giving and receiving help and taking part in group activities,



6. Physical Skills and Well-Being –

Physical activity is vital to all aspects of normal growth and development. In Kindergarten, children learn about habits, behaviours, and decisions related to healthy daily living and well-being.

7. Creative Expression - Children explore and express their thoughts and feelings through visual arts, music, drama and movement. They experiment with media to represent their ideas. They listen to music and explore a variety of instruments. They also participate in dramatic play and movement. Each activity aims to help develop their imaginative and creative thought.

Assessment is a natural, ongoing and important part of a child's program. Through questioning and talking to children, listening to the language they

use and observing their behaviour, teachers gain information about children's levels of skill and understanding. Through oral and written reports, parent evenings, classroom visits and/or conferences, teachers and parents exchange ideas and discuss the progress and achievements of your child. At Westbrook, children participate in conferences, allowing them to reflect upon and celebrate their learning. Rocky



View teachers know that what young children learn at this stage of their lives will have a major impact on their educational journey, their personal development and their participation in society

Parents enrolling their child in Westbrook's Kindergarten program are required to pay a \$25 enrolment fee per child.

**Kindergarten
Registration Fee
\$25/child**

Preschool Intervention Program (PIP)

RVS' Preschool Intervention Program (PIP) supports children aged 2½ to 5 years old with severe developmental needs and 3 ½ to 5 year olds with mild/moderate needs. PIP currently operates at Glenbow Elementary in Cochrane. PIP was developed to provide specialized service for preschool-aged children with special needs to be supported within their own community. It provides children with small adult-child ratios, language enriched environments, family orientated programming sessions, and transitions to the next year.

Using a collaborative approach, practitioners integrate services and strategies functionally in the classroom on a daily basis. The areas of need addressed within the program include services offered by specialists trained in: speech and language, fine and gross motor skills, social skill development, and school psychology. PIP team members collaborate with the Alberta Children's Hospital, medical personnel, outside agencies, private preschool programs, as well as the Calgary Health Authority to help support families by gathering information to understand and support their child.



The majority of children who access PIP must meet criteria set by Alberta Education. The first step in the process requires parents to complete a PIP application form, available at Glenbow School or through the Education Centre's Early Intervention Team. Two information sessions will be held in January for parents who want to learn more about the program and begin the application process. January 2010 dates are:

- January 27 - RJ Hawkey, Airdrie, from 9 am to 11 am
- January 28 - Glenbow Elementary, Cochrane, from 9 am to 11 am

Applications are ongoing. Watch for ads in the paper in April or for more information contact Lynda Hemsworth at 403.945.4026.

Special Need Services

When necessary, Rocky View teachers develop Individualized Program Plans (IPP) to accommodate a student's unique learning, social/emotional, and behavioural needs within the classroom and school settings. Unlike most school jurisdictions that provide programming based on diagnostic categories, Rocky View identifies and serves all students according to their needs. Interventions provided are based on a continuum of classroom accommodations, specialized settings and individual instruction.