

Saskatchewan's Prekindergarten Program

Prekindergarten in Saskatchewan is a developmentally appropriate early childhood education program which targets vulnerable three and four years old children and their families. The program requires a qualified teacher and provides programming for up to 16 children for minimum of 12 hours per week for 10 months of the year.

Specifically, Prekindergarten focuses on:

- fostering social development and self-esteem;
- nurturing educational growth and school success;
- promoting language development; and
- engaging families.

Partnership with School Divisions

The Ministry of Education, in partnership with school divisions, introduced the Prekindergarten program in the province's 26 community schools in 1996-97. In 2025-26, there are 316 ministry funded programs across the province. The ministry provides funding, program guidelines and consultative support. School divisions hire staff and operate the program.

The ministry provides school divisions with documents and related resources to guide Prekindergarten operations:

1. *Prekindergarten Essentials: Effective Practices Policy and Guidelines for Prekindergarten in Saskatchewan* (2017)
 - Also available is *Family Engagement in Prekindergarten* (2012), a supplementary resource to the above document
2. *Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide* (2013) and supplementary documents
3. *Essential Learning Experiences* (2015)

The Prekindergarten Classroom

Quality Prekindergarten programs offer opportunities for enhanced play and exploration. When you walk into a Prekindergarten classroom you should see:

- a comprehensive, integrated program within a thoughtfully prepared environment;
- a focus on the whole child – social-emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual development;
- learning built around the child's experiences, interests, abilities and ideas;
- children involved in active, experiential learning through play;
- experiential centres with intriguing materials, props, equipment and tools;
- extensive family engagement;
- documentation of children's experiences, voices, learning, and representations; and
- educator as documenter, co-learner, researcher and facilitator.

Why Prekindergarten?

The Benefits of Early Education

Quality early childhood education has proven to have both **short-term** and **long-term** benefits in supporting children's success in school, and in life.

Short-Term Benefits:

- ⇒ improved cognitive functioning
- ⇒ increased social skills
- ⇒ increased health
- ⇒ higher self-esteem
- ⇒ enhanced school readiness

Long-Term Benefits:

- ⇒ lower rates of juvenile crime
- ⇒ fewer failed grades and school drop-outs
- ⇒ fewer teen pregnancies
- ⇒ fewer referrals for special education

Family Engagement

A major component of Prekindergarten is engaging families. This includes:

- families’ input into Prekindergarten programming;
- families connecting to the school;
- families understanding of their important role in their child’s education; and
- families gaining knowledge and skills in early childhood development.



For most children, and in particular for vulnerable children, family engagement is the single most important factor in their school success. Research indicates significant benefit for children, families and schools when families are engaged. Benefits range from improved intellectual development for children, to parents returning to school to finish their own education.

Prekindergarten Program Funding

Prekindergarten programs are expanded as resources become available. The ministry’s Prekindergarten funding allocation policy focuses on selecting higher needs communities and neighbourhoods and communities with high numbers of children in order to support children and families who would most benefit from an enhanced early learning program.

2025-26 – 316 Prekindergarten Programs

86 Communities with Prekindergarten Programs with Targeted Funding by the Ministry of Education

Air Ronge (2)	Cumberland House*	Kinistino	Melfort (3)	St Walburg
Allan	Cut Knife	Kipling	Melville (3)	Saskatoon (67)
Arcola	Duck Lake (2)	La Loche (2)	Moose Jaw (11)	Shaunavon
Asquith	Dundurn	Langenburg	Moosomin	Shellbrook
Assiniboia	Estevan (4)	Lanigan	Nipawin (4)	Spiritwood
Balcarres	Fort Qu’Appelle (2)	La Ronge (3)	Norquay	Swift Current (4)
Battleford (3)	Green Lake	Lashburn	North Battleford (12)	Tisdale
Beauval	Grenfell	Leask	Outlook	Turtleford
Biggar	Hague	Leoville/Medstead**	Oxbow	Unity (2)
Big River	Hudson Bay	Lloydminster (5)	Pierceland	Wadena (2)
Buffalo Narrows(2)	Humboldt (4)	Lumsden	Pilot Butte	Wakaw
Canora	Ile a la Crosse* (3)	Macklin	Pinehouse Lake*(2)	Warman (2)
Canwood	Indian Head	Maidstone	Prince Albert (30)	Weyburn (3)
Carlyle	Kamsack (2)	Maple Creek	Regina (63)	Whitecap Dakota
Carnduff	Kelliher/Lipton**	Martensville (2)	Rosetown	Whitewood
Clavet	Kindersley (2)	Maymont	Rosthern	Wynyard
Creighton (2)		Meadow Lake (8)	St. Louis	Yorkton (8)

*includes program operated in partnership with local Aboriginal Head Start site

**indicates a shared program between two communities

(#) indicates that there is more than one Prekindergarten program within the community that is funded by the Ministry of Education

Note: Some school divisions operate additional Prekindergarten programs or other early learning programs.