

Kindergarten Handbook



Alliston
Community
Christian
School



Christian
Schools
International

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ACCS Beats All

We offer a high-quality program to give your child the best start.

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Learning in the Early Childhood Setting

Mark 10:14 says, "Let the little children come unto Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

- Children have unique gifts and abilities
- Play has an important role

At Alliston Community Christian School, children are viewed as a gift from God. They have been created in His likeness with unique gifts and abilities. We strive to create an environment where children feel loved and accepted, and have the opportunity to learn and develop—socially, cognitively, physically and spiritually in order that they might reach their full potential.

In the early years, play has an important role in facilitating learning. It provides opportunities for children to freely explore, experience, manipulate, create and discuss things in their environment. One can never underestimate what children gain through their play as they interact, engage, communicate, and negotiate with their peers, and as they imagine and reason in their own little minds.

Alliston Community Christian School has strong biblically-based Christian teaching throughout

Student Focused – Teacher Directed

Teacher-directed learning is also important in the development of literacy and numeracy in the early years. Through group activities involving music, movement, reading and listening, children grasp the necessary skills and knowledge for entering formal schooling. ACCS Kindergarten is a safe and friendly learning community, stimulating and facilitating children's learning and development.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Devotions & Sharing		Chapel		
Language Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• oral language• vocabulary• speaking & listening• reading & writing• phonics				
Outdoor Play				
Mathematics	Music	Social Studies	Expressive Arts	Library
Computers	Science	Mathematics	Christian Studies	Science



Our Curriculum

We have two years of Kindergarten. The first year (JK) is focused on building children's language and interpersonal skills as they learn about how God created the world and about school. The second year (SK) is the preparation year for Grade 1.

Alliston Community Christian School follows the Ontario curriculum for the core subjects, including English, Mathematics and Science. Biblical principles are embedded throughout all teaching. Below are the achievement standards your child should have reached by the time he/she finish Kindergarten.

English

Listening, Reading and Viewing

By the end of the JK year, students use predicting and questioning strategies. They recall one or two events from texts with familiar topics. They understand that there are different types of texts and that these can have similar characteristics. They identify connections between texts and their personal experience.

Students read texts with familiar vocabulary and supportive images, drawing on their developing knowledge of the concepts about print, sound and letters. They identify letters of the English alphabet and use the sounds represented by most letters. They listen to and use approximate language features

to respond to others in a familiar environment. They listen for rhyme, letter patterns and sounds in words.

Speaking, Writing and Creating

Students understand that their texts can reflect their own experiences. They identify and describe likes and dislikes about familiar texts, objects, characters and events.

In informal group and whole class settings, students communicate clearly. They retell events and experiences with peers and known adults. When writing, students use familiar words and phrases and images to convey ideas. Their writing shows evidence of sound and letter knowledge, beginning writing behaviours and experimentation with capital letters and full stops. They correctly form known upper and lower-case letters.

Mathematics

By the end of the SK year, students compare objects using mass, length and capacity. Students connect events and days of the week. They explain the order and duration of events. They use appropriate language to describe location.

Students count to and from 20 and order small collections. They group based on common characteristics and sort shapes and objects. Students answer simple questions to collect information and make inferences.

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

Attending school for the first time is often exciting for children, although sometimes they can be shy. On the first day, mum is the one who can feel saddest when it is time to say goodbye. Sometimes day two can be more difficult for the child; the excitement of the first day has gone and everything is new.

There are a few things that parents can do to help their child's transition to school be as smooth as possible.

1. Talk about it with your child

Ask your child how he/she is feeling. Be positive and build up the expectation that it will be a new and exciting experience with lots of fun things to do and new friends to meet.

2. Visit the classroom

When you come to pick up your child, come and see the work that he/she has done that day.

3. Buy a school bag & lunch box

This is a lovely way to show your enthusiasm for starting school and that he gets to take his lunch with him!

4. Pray together

Pray that your child will have a wonderful Kindergarten experience with new friends and fun learning!

Highly qualified teachers

All teachers at Alliston Community Christian School have a degree in education at either the Masters or the Bachelors levels.



What to Bring

1. A bag and a packed lunch
2. Fruit or a healthy snack
3. A water bottle
4. Spare clothes (in case there's an 'accident')
5. A smile 😊

What Not to Bring

1. **Do not bring any toys to share.**
We have many lovely things to play with at school and 'outside' toys can create unnecessary conflicts.
2. **Sickness.** If your child is sick, please keep him/her at home.

Benefits of Early Education

1. **Socialization:** Socialization with people other than the child's family in a safe environment is an essential foundational element to the below areas. The earlier we do this, the better, as it helps children overcome shyness and gain self-confidence. If we leave this too long, we actually hinder their social development.
2. **Cooperation:** Learning how to share, cooperate, take turns and persevere within a safe learning environment, guided by professionals who have the children's best interests at heart, especially for the first child.
3. **Holistic Development:** The approach taken to build a strong foundation for a child's emotional, social, physical and mental development, which will prepare them for a lifetime. Early childhood educators are trained in identifying areas where support is needed for each child and building programs and activities around these. Their peers are also extremely important in this regard.

4. **Lifelong Learning:** Lessons should be given in a fun and exciting way that will encourage children to be effective learners. A thirst for learning takes root in Kindergarten.

5. **Experience:** While parents will always be the most important influence on a child's early life, introducing them to a Kindergarten environment provides them with a new perspective on the importance of education that will remain with them throughout their schooling journey. It demonstrates that you value their education too.

6. **Respect:** Teaching the value of respect for others. This is not limited to people

and belongings, but can also mean respect for their environment, both immediate and global. There is no better place to learn this virtue than in a Kindergarten environment, where everything is shared and civility and manners are both taught and learned organically.

7. **Teamwork:** Demonstrating and instilling the importance of teamwork that can teach respect for the opinions of others, listening, cooperation and equality. Many Kindergarten activities are centred around teamwork for this very reason.

8. **Resilience:** It's important that early childhood educators and parents work together to develop resilience in children as early as possible. By creating a consistent, secure and fair social environment, with clear expectations and predictable consequences, children can develop skills in managing themselves and their emotions. It's a teacher's job to provide a challenging environment where children can learn through first hand experiences.

9. **Concentration:** During Kindergarten years, children explore at every opportunity to discover new experiences, new friends and new environments. Their minds are so lively and imaginative. As early childhood educators we need to balance this zest with the ability to listen, follow directions, attend to tasks and participate in group activities to develop the critical life skill of concentration.

10. **Patience:** Children need opportunities to be involved in an abundance of social experiences, where they can explore and practice the social skill of patience.

12. **Confidence and Self-Esteem:** This is critical. A strong sense of wellbeing provides children with confidence, optimism and self-esteem which will encourage children to explore their talents, skills and interests. Positive interactions with other children and teachers will promote a positive, healthy and secure view of themselves.

13. **Exposure to Diversity:** Valuing difference and diversity are crucial to a child's early development.

Kindergarten is so much more than playing. While the basic educational benefits of Kindergarten are tangible, the advances children achieve towards becoming well-rounded individuals are truly invaluable.

Please don't let your child miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

by Vicki Palmer, *Parents Magazine*

Principal's Comment

I look forward to your child joining our Christian learning community, where he or she can learn about God's world with academic excellence.

The Principal