



Kindergarten Gradual Entry Frequently Asked Questions

What is gradual entry?

In 2010, kindergarten shifted from a half-day program to a full-day program in the province of British Columbia. Since that time, the Ministry of Education and Child Care has strategically allowed for fewer minutes of instruction in kindergarten to support a gradual entry during the first two weeks of school.

Why is gradual entry valuable?

The most significant transition a child will make in their education journey is from early years into kindergarten. The kindergarten experience sets the stage for the next 13 years of a child's path from the primary grades, to upper elementary, right through to high school graduation.

While gradual entry may look somewhat different at schools across the district, the first two weeks of kindergarten are all designed to provide time and space for classroom teachers to attend more closely to each child's entry into their new environment. Families also have time and space to build relationships with teachers during gradual entry which is equally critical because the more comfortable families are with the kindergarten transition, the more relaxed children will be about coming to kindergarten.

Gradual entry involves introducing children to the physical space of the school including classrooms, bathrooms, gymnasium, library, playground, and other areas, all of which are critical in developing a sense of place for children. Shorter days allow children to learn important structures, routines, and expectations so they can develop a level of comfort, confidence, and independence in their new surroundings without becoming overwhelmed and/or overstimulated which can result in adverse experiences and associations with school.

The goal for all gradual entry plans is to have children happy, comfortable, and excited to come to school which naturally translates into families feeling confident in sending their children to school.

When will I know my school's gradual entry plan?

Schools will share gradual entry plans with their registered kindergarten families no later than the first week of July to allow families time to plan for September. Additionally, all gradual entry plans will be posted on the [Kindergarten](#) tile of the school district website.