

What about the cohort of children who don't attend full day kindergarten in 2010? Will they be behind their peers when they enter Grade 1 in September 2011 when half their peers have the advantage of having had a year of full day schooling experience?

Students enter every grade at different stages of development, and teachers are accustomed to meeting students with diverse needs. Kindergarten students in half and full day programs will have access to the same kindergarten learning outcomes of the curriculum. Students in full day programming will have more time for deeper learning and exploration, and teachers will also be able to spend more time with students who require extra support. This difference will only exist for one year, since by September 2011 all children will have access to full day kindergarten.

Students in both a full day and half day Kindergarten program will have equal advantages in terms of the prescribed learning outcomes for Kindergarten. Students who attend full days may have an easier transition when starting full days in Grade One; however, students who have attended half day Kindergarten classes adjust very quickly to their full days in Grade One.

Where can I find information about the benefits of full day kindergarten?

The [Early Childhood Learning Agency report](#) (PDF, 107KB) on the feasibility of expanding early learning in British Columbia provides information on the importance of quality kindergarten and pre-kindergarten, and includes research associated with these findings.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #62 SOOKE



PARENT INFORMATION ABOUT HALF DAY AND FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Will there be a new curriculum for full day kindergarten?

A longer instructional day will enable kindergarten teachers to provide more opportunities for learning and success. The expanded kindergarten program will be play-based and designed to address all areas of child development: physical, social, emotional, language and cognitive. The Ministry's current curriculum for [kindergarten](#) (PDF, 650KB) will remain in place for full day kindergarten. The ideas contained in the [Primary Program: A Framework for Teaching](#) (PDF, 4.6MB) will support teachers in designing and delivering full day kindergarten programs. The Primary Program reflects an understanding that children learn through active engagement and play. Note: The Primary Program document does not refer to the most current curriculum outcomes; an up-to-date listing is available at: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/grkcurric_req.pdf (PDF, 650KB).

Why is the Province moving to full day kindergarten?

This government recognizes the importance of investing in early learning and has committed \$151 million toward implementing full day kindergarten for up to half of all children entering kindergarten this fall and all eligible children by September 2011. Many successful models of full day kindergarten already exist across the province and across Canada. Full day learning is associated with improved literacy and numeracy, smoother transitions to Grade 1, and increased post-secondary graduation rates. Research also shows that a high quality, play-based kindergarten program has long-term benefits for children's academic and social skills and helps them to succeed in school and in life. Full day kindergarten is another step towards building a strong foundation for lifelong learning, in a nurturing, play-based environment.

What about Sooke School District's plan to implement full day kindergarten?

The Board of Education passed a motion to implement full day Kindergarten in the 2010-2011 transition year in schools where there is physical space to do so. A committee of teachers and administrators has been formed to work with the district as it transitions to all schools implementing full day Kindergarten.

For more information about full day Kindergarten parents can go to the websites of the BC Primary Teachers' Association and the Ministry of Education.

The information provided in this brochure has mostly been taken from the BC Ministry of Education's website.

Parents can also speak with Kindergarten teachers about half day and full day Kindergarten at the district's Ready Set Learn events.

<p>Ready Set Learn</p> <p>Wednesday, Feb. 3rd</p> <p>Westshore Mall 10:00-3:00</p> <p>SEAPARC 10:00-12:00</p>
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