

FAQ: Parkgate's My First Preschool program

When does the program start?

- Our program begins the first school day after Labour Day each September. For September 2011, this will be September 6 for the Tuesday/Thursday class and September 7 for the Monday/Wednesday class.

What time does the program start and end?

- Our program begins at 9:30am and ends at 11:30am.

Is the program ever closed?

- Our preschool program follows the same holiday schedule as the North Vancouver School District. The program will not operate during the following holiday times:

Labour Day (September 5, 2011)

Thanksgiving (October 10, 2011)

Remembrance Day (November 11, 2011)

Good Friday and Easter Monday (April 6 & 9, 2012)

Victoria Day (May 21, 2012)

For the 2011/2012 program year, the preschool program will be closed for Winter Break: December 19, 2011 through January 3, 2012 inclusive.

For the 2011/2012 program year, the preschool program will be closed for Spring Break: March 12, 2012 through March 23, 2012 inclusive.

The last day of My First Preschool will be June 28, 2012.

How does the gradual entry of the program work?

- For the first days of My First Preschool, our senior teacher staff will be doing a gradual entry for the children in the program. The gradual entry schedule will be as follows:
 - 1st class – children come for 1 hour with 1 parent staying for the entire hour
 - 2nd class – children come for 1 hour and parent leaves child
 - 3rd class – children attend the full regular class with no parents

What happens if I am late picking up my child?

- Please call the Preschool program at 604-983-6382 and let them know that you will be late to pick up your child. Please give the name of the person who may be alternately picking your child up if this is the case.

What should I do if my child is sick?

- If your child has: a communicable disease; a contagious infection (including pink eye); a fever over 38 degree Celsius within 24 hours; vomiting or diarrhoea within 24 hours or is not well enough to participate in all program activities including outdoor activities, your child should remain at home. Keeping your child at home with help speed their recovery as well as protect the other children and staff from becoming ill. Please call the Preschool program at 604-983-6382 to inform the staff that your child will not be attending that day.

Will the staff change my child's diapers?

- We recognize that this time in your child's life is a time where they are toilet training. First, we remind parents to provide their child with the opportunity to use the toilet **BEFORE** coming

to class. Staff will change a child's diaper when needed though they will also regularly check with children to see if they need to use the toilet and ensure that they have regular opportunities to use the toilet during transition times (i.e. before snack, before going outside). Please send your child to preschool in "pull-ups" if necessary and please remember to send along spare "pull-ups," wipes and a change of clothes.

What should my child wear to preschool each day?

- Children should be wearing "play clothes" to preschool. Since our program encourages creativity, discovery and fun, indoors and out, children are required to wear clothes that can be dirty or covered in paint. Please ensure that your child is prepared for the playground with the appropriate outdoor gear (boots, muddy-buddies and proper coats).

What should I pack my child for snack?

- You know how much your child eats in the morning. The children are busy and do enjoy sitting with each other and eating. We suggest a snack that includes a water bottle, fruits or veggies and something like cheese and crackers. Please refrain from sending any nut products to ensure the health and safety of all the children participating in the program.

When can I discuss my child with the preschool teacher?

- Please contact the preschool teacher to arrange for a time to meet. Class drop off and pick up times are very busy and the teacher is required to greet each child and family. By arranging a meeting time, the preschool teacher can give you the attention you and your child deserve.