



Calgary Board
of Education



Sundance School Kindergarten Orientation Thursday, May 23, 2024 6:15 – 7:00 pm

Our Motto: Learning to Soar/ Apprendre à s'élever

At Sundance School we believe in providing a caring community and a dynamic place to learn where students and children come first and are encouraged to stretch to their full potential through a culture of wonder in an additional language. We instill curiosity, creativity, innovation.



Principal:

Melanie Tindall

Assistant Principal:

Heather White

Administrative Secretary:

Tracy Westall

School Secretary:

Joanne Monaghan

Kindergarten Teachers:

Lucie Bouchard

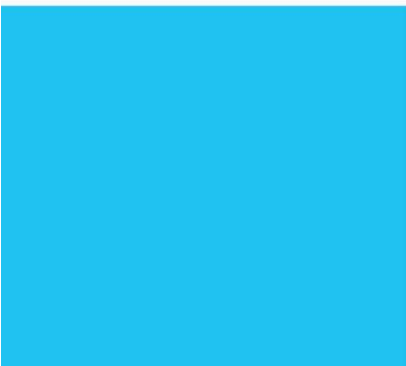
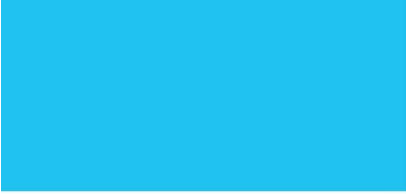
Catherine Trudel

Learning Leader:

Lindsey Cowan O'Brien

School Council:

Steph L

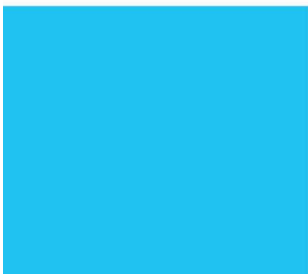
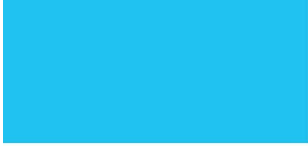


The Calgary Board of Education

The early years are a time of significant development in a child's life. Personalized attention is extremely beneficial to early learners

At the Calgary Board of Education, we understand that children bring their own unique talents and gifts to their learning experience. Our dedicated staff know how to help children reach their full potential

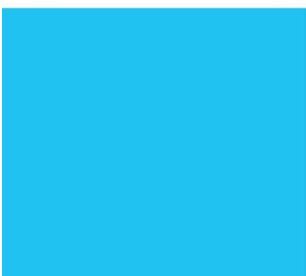
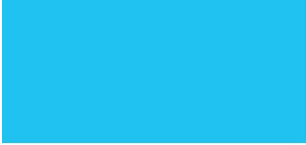
Early French Immersion Program



- K - Grade 2: 100% of instruction is in French
- Grade 3 : 80% French, 20% English
(English Language Arts begins)
- Grades 4-6: 70% French, 30% English

Our goal is French oral language proficiency in the early years....
then comes reading and writing

Kindergarten: Learning through *PLAY*

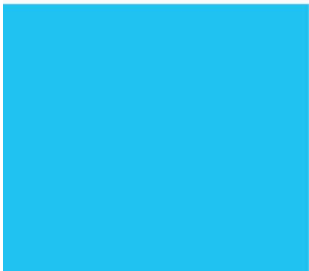


Learning Through *PLAY*

More than just skill building or practicing for the world we will grow into, play is the primary way which children manipulate new information, fit it into existing schema or create new ones and then adjust their understanding accordingly.

formulating **hypothesis**
engaging in experimentation and exploration
discovering patterns
creating **theories**

Enhanced Supports

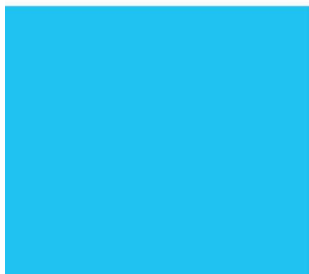
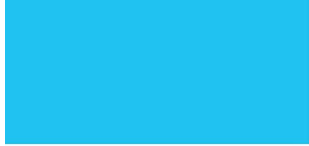


The classroom teacher is at the centre of your child's learning team and is supported by a school learning team. Based on classroom needs, each kindergarten program will also be supported by a multidisciplinary team that works with large and small groups in the classroom.

This team may consist of:

- Early Childhood Practitioners
- Early Learning Strategists
- Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)
- Psychologists
- Occupational Therapists (OTs)
- Physiotherapists (PTs)
- School Family Liaison (SFL)

Kindergarten Alternating Full Days



Children will attend either:

All day Mondays & Wednesdays and scheduled Friday mornings OR

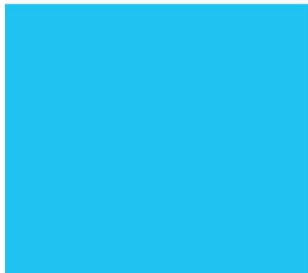
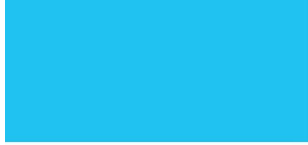
All day Tuesdays & Thursdays and scheduled Friday mornings

All classes meet the minimum required instructional hours for Kindergarten set out by Alberta Education – 475 hours

Monday/Wednesday classes will attend more Friday early dismissal classes due to the number of Statutory Holidays

The calendar will be sent to families when completed

Sundance School Hours 2024 - 2025



Office opens: Monday, August 26 at 8:30 am

First day Gr 1-6: Thursday, August 29

Entry at: 7:55 am

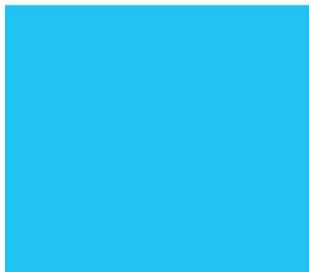
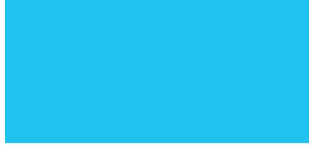
Instructional hours: 8:00 am - 11:40 am
12:25 pm - 2:36 pm

Flexible recess in the morning

Lunch: 25 minutes to eat inside and
20 minutes to play outside

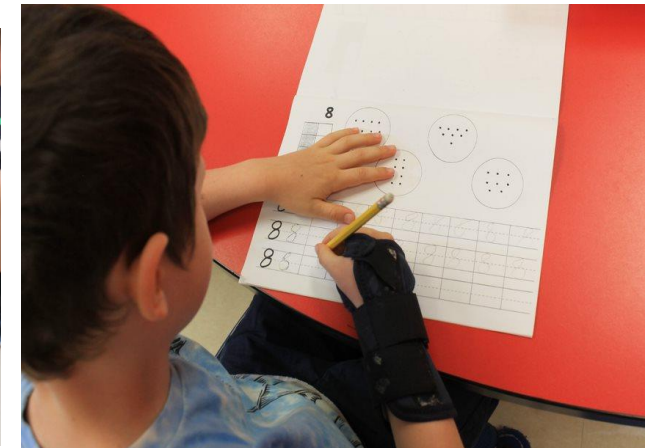
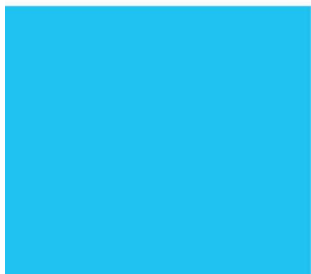
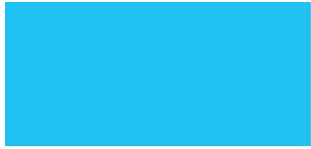
Friday classes: 8:00 am – 11:40 am

Introductory Sessions & First Week of School

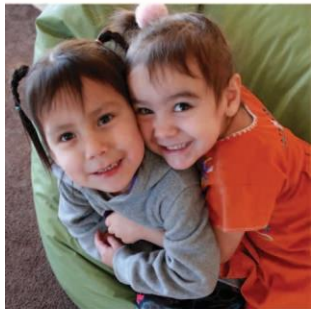


- **Introductory Sessions:** Children attend for ONE hour only
August 29 (T/Th groups) OR
August 30 (M/W groups)
(No Kindergarten Transportation these days)
- **Your child's introductory date and time is in your envelope**
- September 3 – T/Th groups attend first full day
- September 4 – M/W groups attends first full day
- September 6 – M/W groups attend first Friday early dismissal day
- September 13 – T/Th groups attend first Friday early dismissal day
- **Classes finish at 11: 40 am EVERY Friday (whole school)**

Kindergarten at Sundance School



How you can help get your child ready for Kindergarten



1) Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:

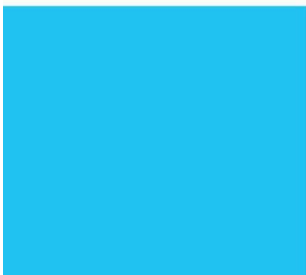
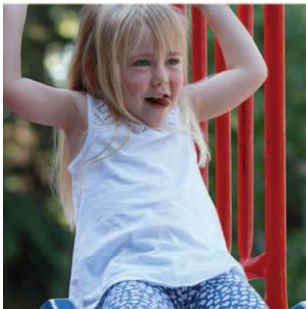
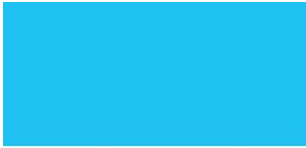
- dress themselves (zippers, buttons)
- use the bathroom and wash their hands on their own
- put away toys and help in other small ways at home
- practice opening and closing snack containers and using a water bottle
- play games, take turns and compromise
- develop a consistent bedtime routine

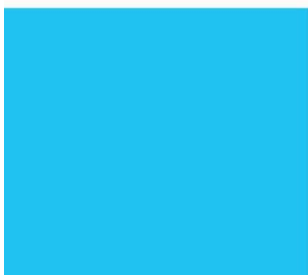
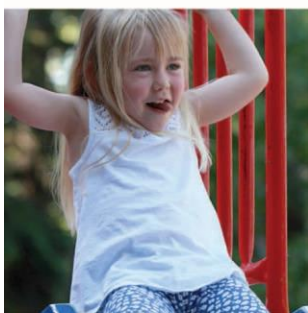


How you can help get your child ready for Kindergarten

2) Read to your child every day:

- read stories together in *your first language* to help your child develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills
- enjoy reading different types of books: picture books, information books, nursery rhymes, poetry
- encourage your child to talk about the pictures and stories as you read together
- visit your community library

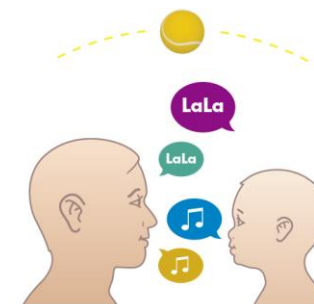




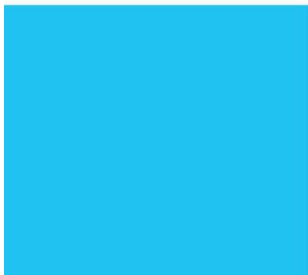
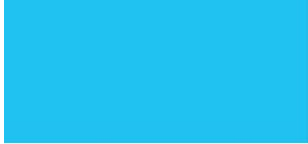
How you can help get your child ready for Kindergarten

3) Take time to talk with your child about everyday activities:

- share special activities together, such as walks to the park
- talk about what you are seeing and doing
- talk, read, sing and play in *your first language* every day
- praise children for their efforts and courage to overcome setbacks
- talk about how it is okay to make mistakes

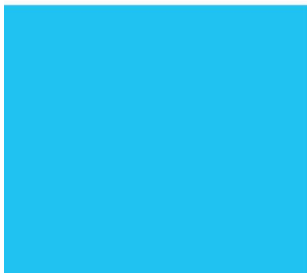
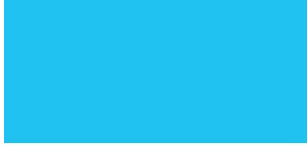


What To Send With Your Child



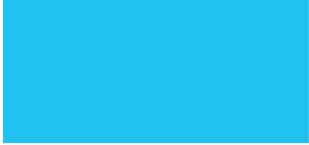
- A pair of clean indoor running shoes that can be put on and done up independently
- A backpack large enough to fit a lunch kit with a packed lunch and two or three healthy snacks, water bottle/juice, library book and extra clothes (change of underwear and pants)
- *** Please label ALL belongings (first/last name)***
- **Mabel's Labels** provides easy labelling options and is a fundraising opportunity for Sundance School. Information may be found on the Sundance School Fundraising website page

How we enhance children's learning



- Field Trips (walking and off site), guest speakers and presentations
- Some of these activities will incur a cost to parents and details will be sent home as activities are booked. All fees will be available to pay online
- School wide events – Carnaval, Assemblies, Activity Day, Spirit Days, Sundog Lunch and snack days
- Bibliothèque – book exchange (once a week)
- Buddy classes - with higher grade levels in the school

Arrival and Dismissal



At the start of the day:

Non bussed children are to meet teachers at the Kindergarten doors with their parent/caregiver



Bussed children are met by a bus supervisor and escorted to the Kindergarten doors

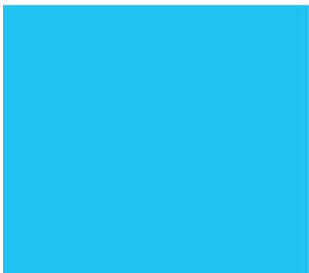
At the end of the day:

Non bussed children are picked up outside the Kindergarten doors by a parent/caregiver

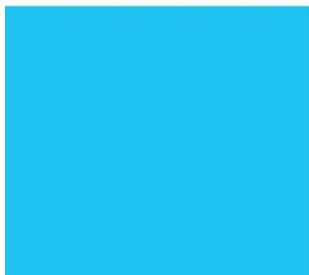
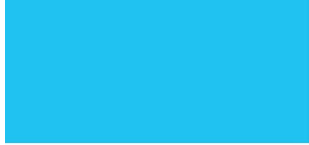


Bussed children are escorted to the bus by a bus supervisor/ leader

If a child arrives late, they should be brought to the office to check in, and we will take them to class



MyCBE Account

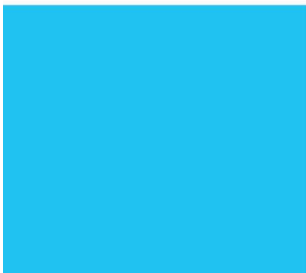
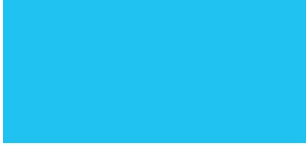


Parents/Guardians must use MyCBE accounts to register for services such as Transportation and Lunch Supervision. You can also view report cards, print tax receipts, pay central & school-based fees and sign up for Parent/Teacher Conferences online

Setting up an account is quick and easy:

- The account holder must be a legal guardian and use the same email address the school has on file.
- Every child must be added to at least one account. Both parents/legal guardians may open an account
- Information on how to open an account has already been sent to parents by email and more details are in your envelope
- <https://sis.cbe.ab.ca/public/home.html>

School Fees

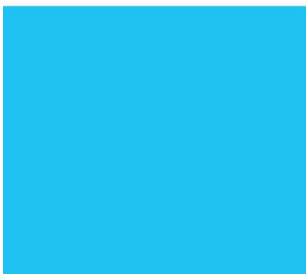
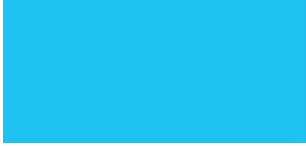


The CBE charges central fees to Kindergarten children as follows:

- **A Student Supplies Fee of \$20.** This fee offsets the costs to purchase all supplies a child will need during their kindergarten year
- **A Lunch Supervision Fee of \$162.50 (2023 – 2024 rate).** This fee is charged to all children staying at school during the lunch recess and is established by the Board of Trustees
- **A Transportation Services Fee of \$130** (proposed 2024 – 2025 rate) for two-way transportation. This fee is charged to all children who have been registered for and access transportation to and from the School

Fees will appear in MyCBE accounts by mid-October

School Fees

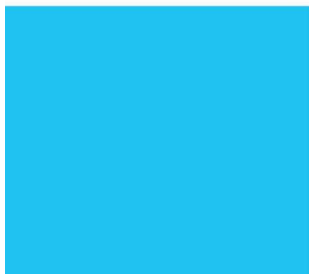
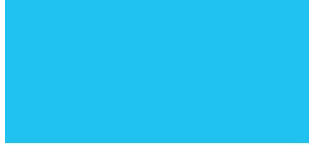


Sundance School applies school-based fees to Kindergarten children for any optional school-based activities such as Alien-In-Line Roller blading, or for field trips such as to the Calgary Farmyard

Parents will be notified of upcoming activities by letter and will need to sign and return permission paperwork for children to take part

Fees will be added to your child's MyCBE account and are available to pay online by a due date detailed in the letter

Lunch Supervision

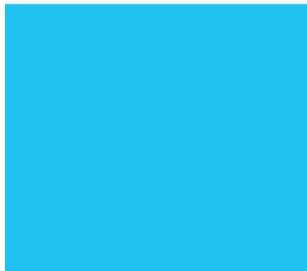
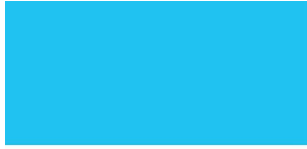


- Parents register via My/CBE accounts usually in the fall.
- **The CBE will send an email when registration is open**
- Parents provide a packed lunch, healthy snacks and all cutlery needed, in an easy to open container with no peanut products
- On early dismissal Fridays, please send snacks only
- We have no means to heat up lunches
- Children eat in their classrooms then go outside to play unless it is a **BLUE DAY**, where the temperature is colder than –20 degrees Celsius with the windchill
- Dress your child for the changing Calgary weather

More information can be found here:

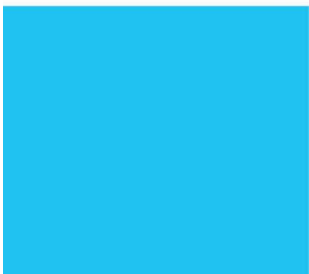
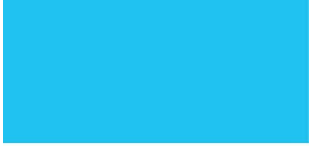
<https://www.cbe.ab.ca/programs/noon-supervision/Pages/default.aspx>

Transportation



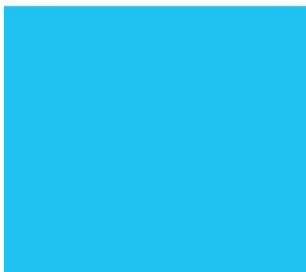
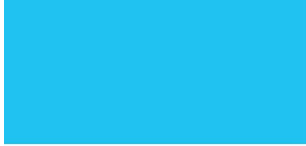
- **Parents must apply online via MyCBE accounts**
- Routes are developed using applications received by **June 16, 2024**
- Applications received after the deadline will be processed, but children will be added to existing stops only
- For late applications, processing times may mean a child is not approved until after school starts in the fall
- When an application is approved, Transportation department will email and add the route and stop details to MyCBE accounts
- Families can add a second address when applying to access two stops or two routes, supporting childcare or family schedules. This incurs an additional charge

Transportation



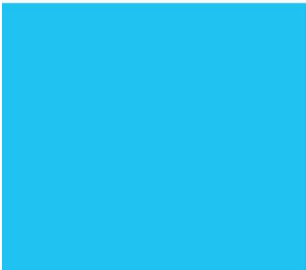
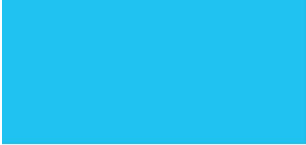
- We encourage you to apply if you live outside of the Sundance community, even if you have not yet decided if your child will require this service
- For those families living in the newest communities, Transportation will only consider adding a new stop location if they receive applications for ten children
- If the route doesn't work for your family, there are no fees charged if the service is cancelled by September 30, 2024
- For more information about transportation, including tracking the bus and being informed about any delays visit:
<https://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/busing-and-transportation/Pages/default.aspx>

Bus Safety



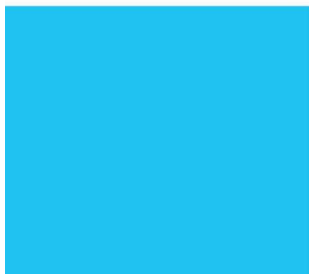
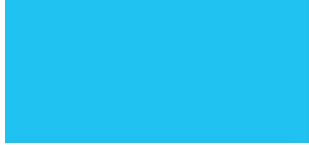
- The safety of all our bus riders is **very** important to us
- Help us by teaching your child their bus letter and their last name
- A bus tag will be provided during the introductory sessions and should be attached to your child's backpack
- Kindergarten children will **not** be dropped off at a bus stop unless someone is there to pick them up. Parents must be at the bus stop **at least 5 minutes** before arrival and drop off time
- Bus attendance is taken daily from September 3, 2024. Information about every child's going home routine is crucial. If your child is not riding home, please call the office and let us know. **We never take the word of a child**
- At first, Kindergarten children are escorted between the bus and the school by a staff member. Later in the year a “bus buddy” escorts them, and eventually as they become more independent, the bus buddies follow the children to the bus. Adults are always ready to help if needed

School Safety and Security



- Children are assigned to a designated entry/exit door based on their grade/class. All entry/exit doors remain locked during the day
- Late children who arrive for class after 8:00 am should be brought to the front door and ring the buzzer to enter. Once checked in at the office, children walk to class or will be taken by a staff member
- Parents / visitors also use the buzzer to enter the school
- **All visitors must report to the front office, sign in, and wear a tag**
- Children who leave during the school day must be signed out at the office
- If your child will be absent or late, or will not be taking the bus home, **please call the office**. We ask that you do not send this type of notification to teachers by email as it may not be seen
- Please do not park in the bus / patrol zones or the staff parking lot
- Please make us aware if your child has any allergies. Parents must complete health information annually and can update it at any time

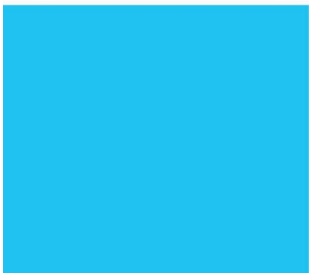
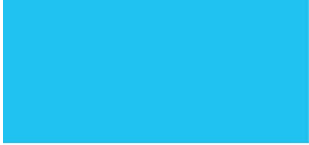
Communication



- ***School Messenger*** is the tool we use to send school wide and classroom news by email
- **Parents must sign up to consent to receive email messages**
- Follow this link to subscribe:

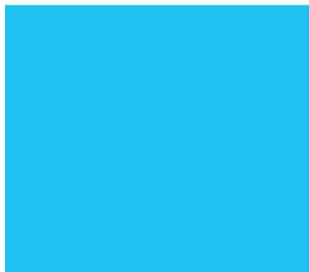
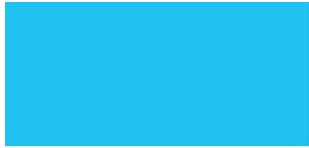
http://calgary.schoolmessenger.com/cbe_subscribe
- Sundance School website is updated weekly
- Advise the office if contact information changes
- Teachers are available for questions outside instructional time
- Kindergarten report cards are uploaded to MyCBE accounts in January and June
- Conferences take place three times a year (September, November & March)

Volunteering



- All volunteers must hold a valid CBE issued Police Information Check. **There are no exceptions to this policy**
- A CBE issued Police Information Check is valid for five years
- **Younger siblings cannot accompany parents while volunteering**
- Registration is easy! Come to the office with your valid photo ID. We will explain the process and provide the documents required
- A CBE Volunteer Registration form must also be completed annually
- All volunteers must sign in at the office and wear a tag in the school
- Information will also be shared at Tears & Cheers during our introductory session days
- Volunteer Coordinator: volunteer.sundance@gmail.com

School Council



- School Council consults with and advises the Principal on any matter relating to the school. They work for the collective good of our students
- The Sundance School Council and Sundance Parent Association (SPA) Casino has fundraised for technology, literacy resources, books for classrooms and The Learning Commons, and special events such as Artists in Residence
- They also plan school and family events such as the amazing Halloween Dance and Sundog lunches/snacks for all children from Kindergarten to Grade 6
- School Council also recognizes the staff with a Staff Appreciation Luncheon and hosts the Tears & Cheers program during the Kindergarten Introductory Session days
- **The first School Council meeting of the year is on September 18, 2024**

Additional Resources



The Calgary Public Library- Top Tips for Kindergarten Readiness*: <https://calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/kitchen-table-classroom-kindergarten-readiness/>

The Calgary Public Library- Kindergarten Booklist:
https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397_calgarylibrary_kids/1859193931_books_to_get_ready_for_kindergarten?_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380

I'm Ready for Screens- Parent Resource:
https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/11018/ImReadyForScreens_English

*Developed in collaboration with the CPL, Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School Division

Questions?

