

Steps you can do to get ready for Kindergarten:

- ⇒ Register your child at www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/student-registration between February 1-7, 2021. To determine your neighbourhood catchment school, please visit our district website at www.comoxvalleyschools.ca, click on 'Schools' and go to 'School Locator'.
- ⇒ Bring copies of any assessments, doctor(s) letters, or other relevant reports with you as well. If there are reports that you do not have copies of, but you feel are important for the school to see, ask to sign a *Release of Information Form* when you register so that we can request documents from the appropriate sources.
- ⇒ If your child is currently receiving supported child care, make sure that the school knows, so we can begin planning for support that may be needed in the fall.
- ⇒ If your child's needs are particularly complex, and/or your child requires specific medical care at school, request a meeting to sit with the support team at the school, or contact Tracy Pederson, District Principal - Student Services, 250-339-0922.

BC Special Education Categories

Physically Dependent Deaf/Blind
Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disabilities Chronic Health Impairment Visual Impairment Deaf or Hard of Hearing Autism Spectrum Disorder
Intensive Behaviour Interventions/Serious Mental Illness
Mild Intellectual Disability Gifted Learning Disability Moderate Behaviour Support/Mental Illness

Funding for services in the school setting:

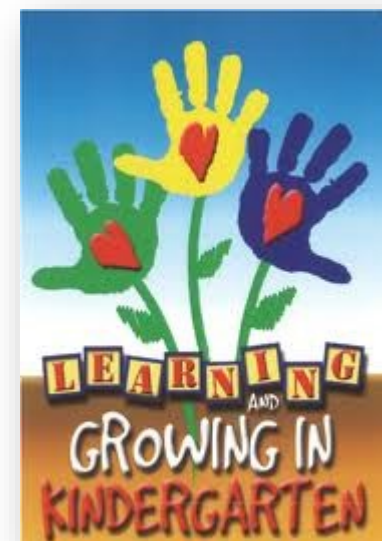
It is important to know that funding does not come to the school district targeted for individual students.

The monies received by the district come in the form of a lump-sum Specialized Services Grant. This grant pays not only for educational assistant time, but also for the learning support teachers, assessments, resources, speech and language services, occupational & physical therapy, etc.

A specific designation does not result in a specific entitlement of support. The support and intervention a student receives is based on the decisions made by the school, in collaboration with families, and balanced with the overall needs of the school. We are always working to make sure students are safe, happy and learning while helping them build as much independence as possible.

Comox Valley Schools

Information for Families of Kindergarten Students with Special Needs



The Student Services Team

The school and district team will work with you to support your child. This may include the creation of an **Individualized Education Plan** which specifically outlines the goals and strategies being put in place to help your child be safe and successful at school.

- **A Learning Support Teacher** will help support your child and co-ordinate your child's Individualized Education Plan or Learning Plan.
- **Education Assistants** are assigned to learning environments and provide classroom support to students.
- **Additional support** is available from a counsellor, speech language pathologist, occupational, physical therapist, and English Language Learning teachers.
- **District support** is also available for students with hearing and visual impairments.

Referrals for services are made through your child's classroom teacher to the School-Based Team. Your child's teacher, or case-manager, will be the best place to go to plan for interventions and support.

The **School Based Team** is the school committee that works to determine the supports and interventions for individual students. If you have a concern, begin with a conversation with your child's teacher.

Concern expressed about student's academic progress or emotional health.

Classroom teacher refers student to School-Based Team.

School-Based Team holds a problem-solving meeting to brainstorm options for support.

Team implements suggestions and monitors student.

Additional support provided in classroom

Remedial support is initiated.

Parents contacted to explore medical/other assessments.

Additional school-based or district assessments are recommended.

Learning Environments at School

Your child's classroom will be the place your son or daughter spends most of his/her school day.

Other learning spaces are provided when they are needed for small group or individual support of specific, targeted skills. Our goal is to provide children with the best learning environments to meet their individual needs.

Many schools are equipped with a **sensory room or break room** where support staff can help the school team provide therapy when it's needed, or children who find the classroom setting overwhelming can take a break.



Supervision

One of the biggest concerns parents often have when starting school is how their children will be kept safe while away from the familiarity of their home environments.

This transition is handled gently for all of our young learners, but particularly for those with unique needs.

Additional adults eyes are sent outside with the children for all breaks, and often Kindergarten students have their own areas on the playground where they are more easily supervised.

Children who require specialized care outside, or who have the potential to run away or hide, may require extra assigned support while they are outside of the classroom. Please let the school know about these specific concerns.