

## **Early Kindergarten in rural schools**

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### Background

The Departments of Education and Health and Social Services are working together on a number of shared mandate commitments and implementing recommendations from the [Putting People First Report](#) to foster high-quality early learning opportunities that support long-term and improved outcomes for children in all aspects of their development.

Priority actions include:

- implementing Early Kindergarten at all rural schools;
- increasing the current subsidy system and moving towards universal early childhood education;
- increasing accessible training opportunities for day home and daycare providers; and,
- coordinating early learning services at all levels by moving early learning to the Department of Education on April 1, 2021.

#### Why is Yukon government expanding the Early Kindergarten program?

The first five years of a child's life are the most critical for their mental, physical and social development.

An expanded Early Kindergarten program supports children to practice skills for learning, improve their language development, and prepare for school routines, which improves their success when transitioning into Kindergarten and into their school years.

Supporting early learning and childhood development is a priority for the Government of Yukon. In 2019, the Government of Yukon announced that Early Kindergarten programs will be offered in all rural schools.

#### Where will the Early Kindergarten program be available?

All rural Yukon schools will offer full-time Early Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs starting in the 2021-22 school year.

Most rural schools already offer some optional early Kindergarten programming, with the exception of schools in Watson Lake and Dawson City.

When will Early Kindergarten be available in Whitehorse?

Implementing the Early Kindergarten program in Whitehorse area schools will be explored in the longer term.

When will the rural program be available for enrollment?

We will be offering Early Kindergarten in all rural communities by the start of the 2021-22 school year. Enrollment will be available to all children who are of age, and will not be limited.

When enrollment opens, we will communicate further information to Yukoners in rural communities. We do not have a set date at this time.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:**

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