

Early Learning Program (2021-2022 School Year) **FAQ's for Schools and Families**

1 WHO CAN ATTEND THE EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM (ELP)?

- Children with assessed developmental delays from 2.8 to 4.8 years old who qualify for early intervention through Program Unit Funding (PUF) as outlined by Alberta Education. (Child must be 3 by December 31, 2021)
- Children with assessed developmental delays in the mild/moderate range who are 3.8 to 4.8 years old who qualify for early intervention as outlined by Alberta Education. (Child must be 4 by December 31, 2021)
- Play Partners - we reserve five morning and five afternoon spaces for children who reflect typical development and are three or four years old. Children who are four years old will be given priority during initial placement period.

2 COULD MY CHILD BENEFIT FROM EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORTS?

- Is your child understood by unfamiliar listeners?
- Is your child able to remember and follow short instructions?
- Does your child play well with other children?
- Is your child usually able to control their emotions and behavior?
- Has your child met most developmental milestones at the “expected” time?

If you have concerns about your response to any of these questions your child may qualify for early intervention.

3 MY CHILD HAS BEEN ACCESSING SERVICES THROUGH ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES(AHS), HOW DO I ENSURE THE SCHOOL AND DIVISION GET THE INFORMATION?

AHS (i.e. Children’s Allied Health or Speech Language and Hearing) works in close partnership with MHPSD. If you indicate that you are interested in accessing MHPSD’s educational programming, AHS will connect with the Director of Early Learning to share information. Likewise, if you indicate on your ELP application that your child has been recently accessing supports through AHS, with your approval, MHPSD can request AHS to share information.

If your child has been previously receiving services through any of our MHPSD schools or community programs, reports will be transferred to any other program within our division.

4 HOW MUCH DOES ELP COST?

Fees for play partners are **\$225.00/month**, a Pre-Authorized Debit Agreement is required upon confirmation of placement (not at time of application).

There is no monthly fee for children who qualify for early intervention.

An annual school-based student activity fee of \$60.00 may be required, depending on student age and level of need.

Please note this is an educational program therefore it is not eligible for subsidy or a childcare deduction on your income tax. Receipts are not provided for pre-authorized debit transactions. If you do require formal documentation a letter with a summary of payments can be provided annually upon request.

5 IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED FOR ELP?

ELP children who qualify for PUF supports may:

1. Access the ELP bus within zoned limits (first come first serve).
2. If your child is unable to ride the bus, and you live within MHPSD boundaries, you may qualify for a Parent Transportation Contract in which you will receive payment (TBD) for each day you transport your child to ELP.

6 HOW OFTEN WILL MY CHILD ATTEND ELP?

ELP is designed to be a five day/week program. The program is offered in the morning at some schools and in the afternoon at others. Full day programming for students age three to four is not an option.

If families prefer that their child attends less than four to five days/week, several of the preschools and daycares that we partner with may accommodate a part-time program.

The Early Learning Program follows the MHPSD calendar. ELP is also closed the last Wednesday of each month.

7 HOW AND WHEN WILL I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS ACCEPTED INTO ELP?

MHPSD will notify families through EMAIL regarding their placement status. Applications received in February and March will be processed by April. Applications received after March 31 will be placed on a waiting list and you will be notified when a space becomes available.

It is our intention to offer ELP in most of our elementary schools. If we do not have sufficient registration in your in area school, we will offer you a placement in an alternative location.

8 CAN CHILDREN ACCESS AN EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM IN A SCHOOL THAT IS OUT OF THEIR BOUNDARY AREA?

Priority is given to children who live in the boundary area for the school. Children living out of area may apply upon approval of the principal if there is space in the program.

9 I AM NOT SURE IF MY CHILD IS TYPICALLY DEVELOPING. HOW DO I FIND OUT IF HE/SHE QUALIFIES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?

Medicine Hat Public School Division provides:

Annual Child Development Check-Up.

April 7, 2021

10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Southview School - By appointment

Please email debbie.terlson@sd76.ab.ca to book a FREE appointment

Speech & Language assessment appointments

More information coming soon...