

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Contact Information:

Administrator: Catherine Spackman

Email: dcakids@telus.net

Teacher: Lindsay Fricker (Mrs. F)

Email: teacher.dcakids@gmail.com

Classroom Phone: 403-288-1050

Classroom Cell: 403-875-8783

website: www.dcakids.com

twitter: [@DalhousieKids](https://twitter.com/DalhousieKids)

First Day Details: **We have staggered entry!**

FIRST day of school will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5th or Thursday, Sept. 6th. **Your SECOND day of school will be on Friday, Sept. 7th.**

Our program runs from 9:00 -11:50 am. Mrs. F will greet her new friends in the lobby promptly at 9:00 am and bring them back to the lobby at 11:50 am. **Important: On your first day, Catherine will host a brief parent meeting as soon as children are settled (say 9:05 am) – so stick around!**

Your child will need: a backpack with a small nut-free snack, water bottle and indoor shoes. Coats and outdoor shoes will be hung up and left outside the classroom, with backpacks being brought inside.

Parent Communication:

To make our learning visible – and to **keep you informed** about classroom goings-on, we are trying a new program called Remind. This program comes highly recommended. Kindergarten will be able to schedule and send messages via text or email – your choice – with all personal contact information staying private.

To register, you can **choose one** of the following –

1. **Sign up for text notifications** by texting @dcakids to 81010. Or...
2. **Go to www.remind.com/join/dcakids** and follow the directions. Or...
3. **Download the Remind app**, sign up for an account with your email address, and enter the class code “dcakids” when prompted.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

We Need Your Help!

As a community kindergarten, having HELP from our dedicated parents makes all the difference!

We understand that families are BUSY and it's not always feasible for you to spend quality time with us in the classroom. Help comes in a variety of forms! – Take a look:

Parent Council: If you have AN HOUR free, one evening a month (typically, the first Monday of the month) we'd love to have you participate. This is where the magic happens, decisions are made about field trips and fundraisers. Even if you can't commit to every meeting – we encourage you to come out when you can!

Scheduled Visits: If you have some flexibility in your schedule, but need to plan for it in advance, consider – Field Trip Volunteers - let us know you're interested, we can flag these for you so you don't miss out on the fun!

Mystery Reader Mondays – new this year, a sign-up sheet will be available at the Open House / Pizza Party, along with more information.

From Home: maybe the best way for you to get involved, is from behind the scenes! This could look like – putting together the monthly newsletter (content provided), organizing scholastic orders, making playdough, or doing odd jobs like cutting and copying.

If you are looking to volunteer REGULARLY – yes please! Let's chat about what that could look like!

Volunteering typically starts in October, giving students time to settle into the classroom.

Need to Knows:

We want to see you at school! Regular attendance is important. Sick with a fever? Please stay home. We would rather see you healthy! *Note: staff doesn't administer medicine.*

If your child will be away, please contact the school (you can easily text the classroom cell) no later than 15 minutes prior to class. Save us from wondering where our friends are!

Arrive no more than 5 minutes before class, and arrange for prompt pick up after class time. (We run from 9:00 – 11:50 am). Going home with someone new? Please let me know ahead of time.

Children have snack during Center Time. Strive to pack mess-free and nut-free snacks. For Out-Of-School-Care children, pack a separate snack from the lunch they will eat downstairs.

No need to dress-to-impress! We like to have fun and get messy. Come dressed in appropriate clothes for play (this includes outdoor play – *as long as the temperature is above -15 C*).

Label EVERYTHING! Did you know we participate in a Mabel's Label's fundraiser? Check out their website.

We love field trips! Information and consent forms will be sent home to be signed approximately one week PRIOR to any outings. Some field trips require a nominal fee. Volunteers are always needed!

Celebrating a birthday? More information will be going home about how we will be celebrating together this year. Stay tuned! Note: If you will be handing out invitations, please let me help you be discrete.

My door is open! I am available after class to touch base and can be easily reached by email.

Parent-teacher interviews are held in November and March.

Play-based Learning: Dalhousie Community Kindergarten is a play-based program!

We use “play” as the vehicle by which we broaden perspectives, deepen understanding and propel learning forward! Our students play an active role in constructing our learning environment – their needs and interests will help dictate the space and the activities that will be found.

Play-based learning is... hands-on, exploratory, intentional, purposeful!

Children who learn through play aren't learning through rote memorization (which, naturally, has it's own time and place).

In other words, they aren't memorizing to learn, they are learning to understand.

Technology in the Classroom:

When using technology in the classroom, we explore how to use it as a tool for learning, rather than entertainment.

In the classroom, you'll see us use:

- **A television and computer:** to act as our own Interactive Whiteboard, we display pictures and video clips that provoke our wonderings, and we project/reflect on our learning.
- **A tablet:** mainly for the documentation of learning. With it, we take pictures, videos, and audio recordings, as well as use apps like Chatterpix, Green Screen, and a QR Code Reader.
- **A digital picture frame:** new to our classroom this year, I'm hopeful this will act as a smaller scale reflection/documentation tool.
- **A Smart speaker:** for a variety of things throughout our day – from setting a reminder for the end of center time, and telling us the temperature outside, to helping us choose a random number or roll a dice for us to form pairs and small groups.
- **Our Twitter page, school website, and Remind App:** for parent communication and transparency. Any photos posted will conform to the boundaries set in our consent forms.

If you have any concerns/questions about how technology is being used in the classroom, don't hesitate to reach out!