

## **Early Learning Program (2020-2021 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 5 years old who qualify for early intervention through Program Unit Funding (PUF) as outlined by Alberta Education. (Child must be 3 by December 31, 2020)
- 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, 2020)
- 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 WILL MY CHILD BENEFIT FROM AN EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM?**

- 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 anger and behavior?
- Has your child met most developmental milestones at the “expected” time?

### **3 MY CHILD WAS ASSESSED BY ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES, HOW DO I ENSURE THE SCHOOL AND DIVISION GET THE INFORMATION?**

Alberta Health Services works in close partnership with MHPSD. When a child is assessed through AHS services at the hospital (i.e. Children’s Allied Health or Speech Language and Hearing), if you indicate that you are interested in accessing educational programming, they will forward the report to our Early Learning Coordinator. Likewise, if you indicate on your ELP application that your child has been recently accessed, with your approval, we can request the report from Alberta Health Services.

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.

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#### **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 \$65.00 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.***

#### **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, where families can select a morning OR an afternoon program for their child. 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 March 31. Applications received after March 31 will be processed within a month of application.

#### **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.

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## 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 an annual Child Development Check-Up.

April 2, 2020

10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Southview School

Drop In – No appointment Needed

**Alberta Health Services** provides assessment free of charge. Families may self-refer their children for assessment in speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy and others.

### **Speech Language and Hearing Department**

To make an appointment, call 403-528-8175.

[Speech Language and Hearing – Website](#)

### **Children's Allied Health Services (Formerly CHADS)**

To make an appointment, call 403-529-8966.

[Children's Allied Health – Website](#)