



MULTI-AGE/MULTI-YEAR CLASSROOM

Brent Kennedy Elementary is offering a new Multi-age/Multi-year program beginning September 2020 for current K-2 students that are interested in a play-based learning environment. This multi-age class will include learners from grades 1-3.

Children come from very diverse backgrounds, but all have play in common. BKES is looking to create a program that integrates play and outdoor learning into education, to allow children to naturally develop and let their strengths shine.

▶ Key Components

- Play-based, project based, student led learning
- Focus on sound foundations of literacy and numeracy
- Mixed cohort of ages and abilities
- Weekly outdoor education component
- Extended time to build connections
- Well rounded parental involvement opportunities
- B.C.'s Early Learning Framework is the foundation of the program. The Framework establishes a vision for respectfully living and learning together.

▶ Why Play-based learning?

An emphasis on the importance of play in a child's overall development is closely associated with the development of intellectual skills, thinking and motivation.

▶ Why Outdoor learning?

Learning outdoors teaches children important life skills and how to become stewards of and connect with the natural world.

▶ What does everyday learning look like?

- Practicing numeracy skills on a board game
- Building words with magnetic letters
- Reading a "just right" book to a stuffy, or a buddy
- Using art and building to share learning
- Playing store, bank
- Building with blocks, Lego, sticks, rocks
- Free play with classmates
- Making forts
- Creating with recycled bit and pieces
- Purposeful outdoor experiences in the natural world



Why Multi-age?

Classroom Environment

Students supporting each other rather than competing against each other. Open feeling of acceptance and safety as each person is valued for their strengths and supported with their stretches.

Classroom Community

Students building connections with each other despite being different ages, accepting and valuing each other as individuals with different strengths as they work together throughout the year.

Accountability/Ownership

Students taking control of their learning because it's interesting and relevant to them. Children are strong, capable in their uniqueness and full of potential.

Leadership

Students try out leadership opportunities because they have the skills to do it, a passion for it, or something they want to share with their classmates, age is no limit, we all learn from each other. Leading by example, self-regulation, co-regulation happens regularly.

▶ What does Multi-age learning look like?

- Literacy/Numeracy – students doing assignments on the same topics at their ability levels, rather than their grade level. Expectations will be personalized to their unique goals.

▶ Connection with Parents

Parents are an integral part of our school team. Parents are invited to connect regularly (through emails, phone, in person) with the teacher about their child's learning goals, strengths and stretches. This program encourages discussion with families about their child's early learning. There will be many volunteer opportunities on a monthly basis for parents wishing to participate.



▶ Benefits of Multi-age, Multi-year program

Students that enroll in grade 1 will benefit the most from the multi-year aspect of the program, where their education will be structured over three years to support their natural development:

- Personalized learning and advancement on individual timelines
- Building strong connections and relationships
- Parental involvement with learning, goal setting etc
- Timeline flexibility

MORE QUESTIONS? READY TO SIGN UP?

Contact the school: 250-359-7292
or clerical.bkes@sd8.bc.ca

