FOOTPRINTS FOR LEARNING CHARTER ACADEMY
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DOCUMENT 2.0: ECS Programming
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OVERVIEW

The FLCA Board believes that Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs at the Kindergarten level are designed to enhance the progress of children prior to their entrance into Grade One. FLCA's Kindergarten programming introduces students to our unique educational pillars: Spanish, Entrepreneurship, and Global Awareness. The program provides a minimum of 475 instructional hours focused on holistic, play-based, and developmentally appropriate learning that meets the diverse needs of young learners.

ALBERTA EDUCATION CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

FLCA's Kindergarten instruction is directed toward achieving the outcomes of Alberta Education's newly updated K–6 curriculum on LearnAlberta. Teachers are responsible for ensuring learning activities are engaging, interactive, and aligned with provincial outcomes across all core subject areas:

- **English Language Arts and Literature (ELAL):** Fostering early literacy through phonological awareness, oral language development, and a love for reading.
- **Mathematics:** Exploring early numeracy, spatial reasoning, and problem-solving through hands-on exploration.
- **Physical Education and Wellness:** Developing physical literacy, personal well-being, and social responsibility.
- **Science, Social Studies, and Fine Arts:** Encouraging curiosity, community awareness, creative expression, and early global citizenship.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PEDAGOGY

The Kindergarten program must use Alberta Education's guiding principles as a basis for planning learning activities. These principles guide teachers in making informed instructional decisions to create environments responsive to diverse learning styles and linguistic backgrounds:

- Children are co-constructors of knowledge and partners in learning.
- Children are unique and active contributors to their learning.
- Children construct and represent knowledge in a variety of ways.
- Children interact and learn in a variety of contexts, influenced by early experiences and cultural circumstances.
- Children are citizens and active participants in school and society.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMMING

FLCA embraces inclusive education, ensuring a continuum of supports and services for all children. When children require specialized programming to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes for later learning, a collaborative learning team—including parents, teachers, and specialists—will develop an Individualized Program Plan (IPP).

- The IPP is not a daily lesson plan but an evolving, flexible guide that addresses specific priorities through functional goals.
- It outlines necessary classroom accommodations, such as modified instructional strategies, materials, or assessment procedures.
- The IPP provides an ongoing record to monitor child growth, promote independence, and ensure continuity of programming into Grade One.

KINDERGARTEN PEDAGOGY & PILLAR INTEGRATION

Integrating FLCA's Unique Pillars The FLCA Board emphasizes introducing students to our unique learning programs within the daily routine. Teachers should weave these foundational pillars seamlessly into purposeful play and structured instructional hours:

- **Spanish:** Incorporate basic Spanish vocabulary into daily morning routines, calendar time, counting, and transitional songs.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Set up dramatic play centers (e.g., a classroom marketplace, clinic, or bakery) where children explore the concepts of needs versus wants, creating goods, and working together.
- **Global Awareness:** Feature diverse cultural stories, traditions, and simple maps during storytime to help children understand their place in a diverse broader community.

Current Alberta Education Subject Areas & Outcomes

To ensure full compliance with the latest provincial curriculum on LearnAlberta, Kindergarten programming must channel children's natural curiosity into activities that address the following core subjects and updated foundational outcomes:

- **English Language Arts & Literature:** Children will understand that letters have sounds that form words, share their ideas and experiences, form letters, print their names, and engage with new vocabulary.

- **Mathematics:** Children will solve problems with quantities (numbers 1 to 10), create and identify patterns, investigate basic shapes, and begin to explore the concept of time.
- **Physical Education & Wellness:** Children will develop a love for physical activity through games, use various movement equipment, practice safe play, and learn the power of making healthy food choices.
- **Science:** Children will explore their immediate environment and investigate the properties, senses, and movement of everyday objects.
- **Social Studies:** Children will learn about places in their community, cultures, traditions, and histories, developing an early awareness of the connections between individuals and society.
- **Fine Arts:** Children will explore self-expression and creative thought through visual language, art, movement, music, and drama.

Personal and Social Responsibility Statements

A large portion of the programming focuses on developmental readiness rather than just academics:

- **Learning Behaviours:** Developing positive, enthusiastic attitudes toward exploration and problem-solving.
- **Independence:** Practicing self-care tasks (e.g., dressing themselves, managing personal items, and using the washroom independently).
- **Social Connections:** Working cooperatively, sharing, listening during group circles, and managing emotions in socially acceptable ways.