



Parents/Guardians:

Due to recent Alberta Education funding and eligibility criteria changes for Program Unit Funding (PUF), Pembina Hills Early Learning Programs have to adjust accordingly. We will now require assessments to confirm eligibility for the program to be completed prior to entry. These assessments may include Speech and Language, Behavior assessments or medical documentation indicating a specific diagnosis. If you do not have an assessment yet, but are concerned that your child may qualify and benefit from early learning services, please talk to the Early Learning Principal or the teacher at your school.

Based on space and available resources, typically developing children **may not** be offered placement in our preschool programs. Our priority is with those children identified with needs that meet the eligibility criteria set out by Alberta Education.

Changes that families need to be aware of include:

- A requirement of a 400-hour program for those children identified with needs in accordance with Alberta Education Eligibility Criteria.
- Eligibility Criteria has changed from the current year and a child that may have been eligible for service this year may no longer be eligible given the narrowed parameters of the criteria.
- Financial supports have been reduced significantly that will affect level of supports that will be offered to children and families. This will also impact the number of children we will be able to service at our preschool sites. Our priority will be with those identified with needs.
- **There will be significantly fewer spaces offered to typically developing children in our programs. Pembina Hills Early Learning programs will only consider those typically developing children that are 4 years of age by September 1.**
- 2 years of Program Unit Funding rather than 3 years of Program Unit Funding now exists. Children in their Kindergarten year that have been identified with a need will receive supports through the new funding structure provided by Alberta Education for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. Children in the preschool years need to be 2.8 years of age to 4.8 years of age to qualify for funding and meet the eligibility criteria.
- There is no longer funding for children identified with mild to moderate needs in preschool. Those children with mild and moderate speech and language needs will be directed to access service through Alberta Health Services.



Our first priority is to determine those children eligible for Program Unit Funding with the criteria provided by Alberta Education. There will be limited availability for typically developing children in our preschool sites.

Sincerely,
Shirley Craig
shirley.craig@pembinahills.ca
Early Learning Principal

Community Partner Contact Information

Speech-Language Assessment

- Westlock Community Health Services: 780-349-3316
- Barrhead Community Health Services: 780-674-3408

Hearing Assessment

- Barrhead Community Health Services: 780-674-3408
- Wild Rose Audiology Clinic: 780-447-3881

Vision Assessment

- Barrhead Optometry Clinic: 780-674-2395
- Westlock Eye Centre: 780-349-3702