

**Policy 7.01**

**Category: Curriculum and Instruction**

**Kindergarten**

**BACKGROUND**

Section 21 of the Education Act speaks to Early Childhood Services Programs.

“Early Childhood Services (ECS) refers to programming offered by school authorities prior to compulsory schooling that meets the diverse needs of young children and their families. Kindergarten is part of the ECS continuum of programs and refers specifically to the education program for children in the year prior to Grade 1.

In ECS programs, young children participate as active learners within developmentally appropriate learning experiences and develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that lay the foundation for subsequent learning.”

*Guide to Education*

**POLICY STATEMENT**

1. The CAPE Charter Board supports children’s involvement in a kindergarten program to address the developmental needs of children before they enter grade one.
2. The Kindergarten Program at CAPE emphasizes a developmental process that encourages students to grow intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally at a rate that respects the potential of each individual student and their developmental strengths and needs.

**DEFINITIONS**

3. **Kindergarten** - refers specifically to the education program for children in the year prior to Grade 1.
4. **Direct instruction** - instructional approaches that are structured, sequenced, and led by teachers, and/or the presentation of academic content to students by teachers, such as in a lecture or demonstration.
5. **Practice activities** - activities like worksheets and exercises that help students practice a concept they've learned.

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6. **Exploratory activities** - independent, unstructured activities that are open ended and provide opportunities to explore ways of interacting with the material provided.
7. **Hand-on activities** - actually doing a particular thing, rather than just talking about it or getting someone else to do it.
8. **Knowledge** - the fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association.
9. **Skills** - the ability to do something well; expertise.
10. **Attitudes** - the way a person thinks and feels about someone or something.

**GUIDELINES**

11. The purpose of CAPE's kindergarten program is to prepare students for grade one. In addition to this, CAPE strives to foster a love of learning in students.
12. CAPE provides kindergarten programming that adheres to the Alberta Education Kindergarten Program Statement.
13. The Kindergarten program must adhere to the CAPE philosophy as defined in the CAPE charter, and delivered in an integrated and personalized setting.
14. Capping the class (CAPE charter) allow for the child-teacher or child-adult interactions to become more personal and effective.
15. CAPE puts a high value on core learning, especially language and mathematics.
16. Direct instruction activities are balanced with group activities, practice activities are balanced with exploratory hand-on activities.
17. Areas of need are addressed for each child so that each child may have positive development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes not only as a young learner, but as a life-long learner.
18. The Kindergarten program must receive the approval of the Superintendent prior to implementation.
19. Program development, delivery, and evaluation are under the direct supervision of the Principal.
20. Certificated, qualified teachers are to deliver the program, supported by full time educational assistants.

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**References:**

*Education Act*

*CAPE charter*

*Guide to Education*

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Motion: #2007-10-22-7

Motion: #2008-09-30-24

Motion: #2018-09-26-8

Motion: #2022-04-27-04