

# Program Unit Funding (PUF)



## WHAT IS PUF?

Program Unit Funding (PUF) is a generously conceived provincial program for children who require additional support beyond that offered in a regular preschool program. The total funds made available depend on the needs of the child, although there is an upper limit.

## HOW DOES MY CHILD QUALIFY FOR A PUF PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM?

A child must be assessed and diagnosed by a qualified professional (pediatrician, psychiatrist, psychologist, speech language pathologist) with a severe disability or severe language delay and meet the Alberta Education Special Education Coding Criteria.

## HOW OLD DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE TO START A PUF PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM?

Children may qualify if they are more than 2 years, 8 months of age and less than 4 years, 8 months of age on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which the child is being registered.

## IS BUSING OFFERED FOR CHILDREN WHO ATTEND PUF PRE-KINDERGARTEN?

Busing is not offered for Pre-Kindergarten programs.

## HOW MANY YEARS CAN MY CHILD QUALIFY FOR PUF PRE-KINDERGARTEN?

A child may qualify for up to 2 years of PUF Pre-Kindergarten funding if they meet the Special Education Coding Criteria as determined by Alberta Education for a severe disability/delay.

## HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD?

Contact the Principal or Learning Support Teacher (LST) of your school of choice with the assessment or diagnosis for your child. Once approved, your child must be registered by September 30<sup>th</sup> and attend a Junior Kindergarten program offered at a GYPSD school. The Principal, LST or the school Administrative Assistant will provide any assistance needed with registration.

## WHAT SUPPORT DOES PUF FUNDING PROVIDE?

- Therapies including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Psychology as needed.
- An educational assistant supports a cluster of students.
- An Instructional Support Plan (ISP) with developmentally appropriate goals developed in consultation with teachers, therapists, parents and educational assistants. The parents must be actively involved in this process.

## DOES MY CHILD NEED TO TOILET INDEPENDENTLY?

Children who qualify with a severe speech language delay should be toilet trained. For children identified with other severe disabilities/delays, parents are responsible to communicate with the classroom staff about where their child is at in the toileting process.

## WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PUF PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM?

Please contact Erin Murphy by email at [erinmurd@gy-psd.ca](mailto:erinmurd@gy-psd.ca) or by phone at 780-723-4471.