



Calgary Board
of Education

Kindergarten Orientation 2026-2027

****A digital copy of this presentation is
posted on our school website**



Agenda



- Welcome!
- Learning through **PLAY** and **OUTSIDE**
- Enhanced Supports in Kindergarten
- Getting ready for kindergarten- tips for families
- First Day of Kindergarten
- Important dates & times
- Lunch
- Attendance
- Bussing
- Communication – Stay informed
- Ways to get Involved
- Questions

The Calgary Board of Education



The early years are a time of significant development in a child's life. Personalized attention is extremely beneficial to early learners.



Your child will learn and grow a great deal throughout the kindergarten year.



At the Calgary Board of Education, we understand that children bring their own unique talents and gifts to their learning experience. Our dedicated staff know how to help children reach their full potential.

Learning Through **PLAY**

More than just skill building or practicing for the world we will grow into, play is the primary way which children manipulate new information, fit it into existing schema or create new ones and then adjust their understanding accordingly.

formulating **hypothesis**

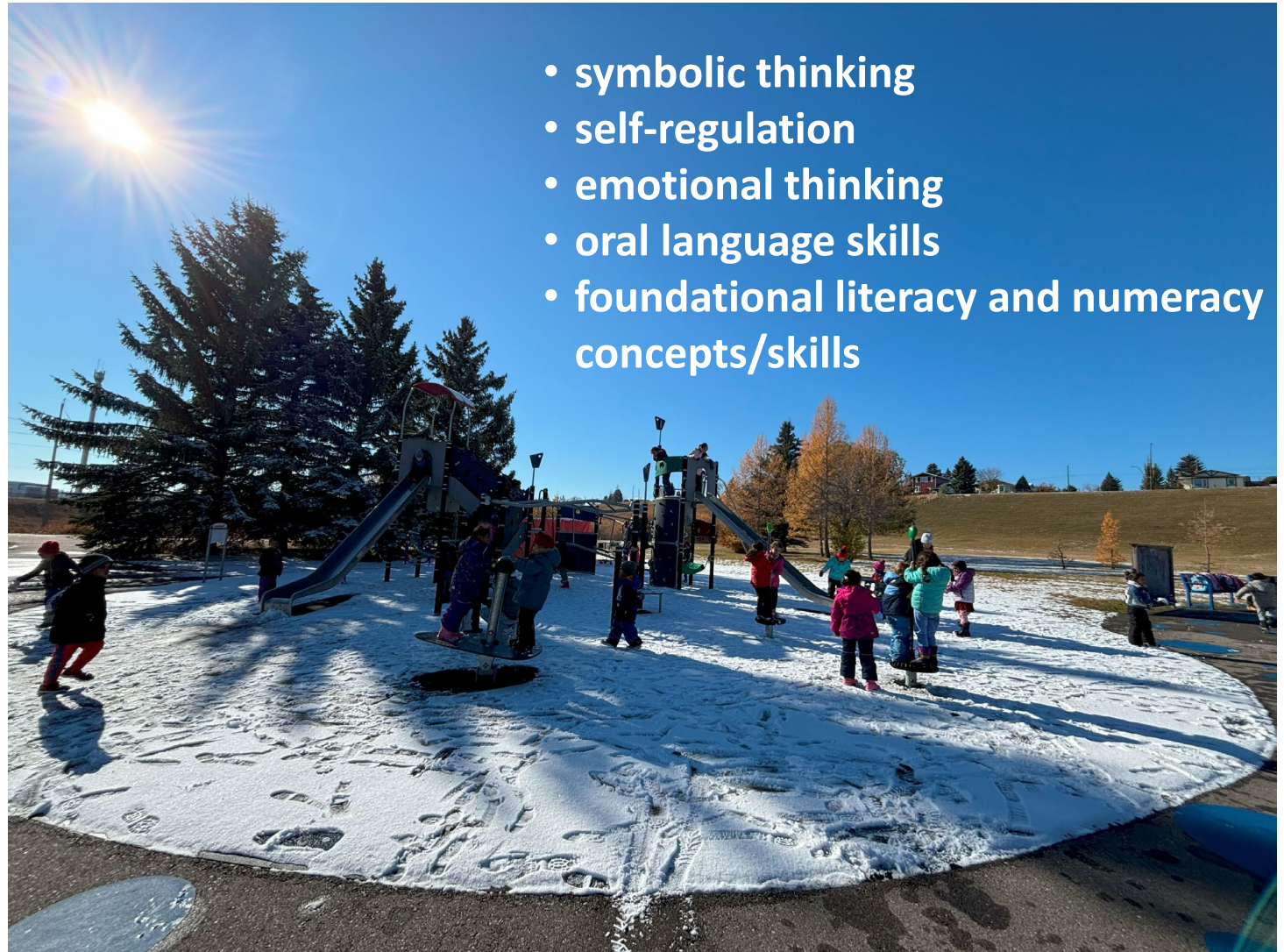
engaging in experimentation and exploration

discovering patterns

creating **theories**



Through **PLAY**, children learn:



- symbolic thinking
- self-regulation
- emotional thinking
- oral language skills
- foundational literacy and numeracy concepts/skills

Learning Through **PLAY**



“Research shows that children who engage in complex forms of socio-dramatic play have greater language skills than non-players, better social skills, more empathy, more imagination, and more of the subtle capacity to know what others mean. They are less aggressive and show more self-control and higher levels of thinking”

~Miller & Almon

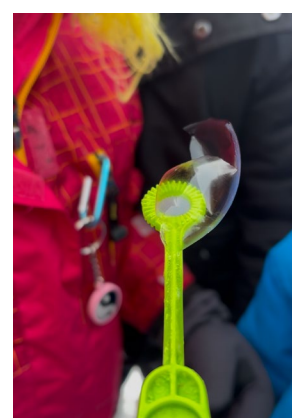
Early Literacy & Numeracy



We Learn OUTSIDE in FALL

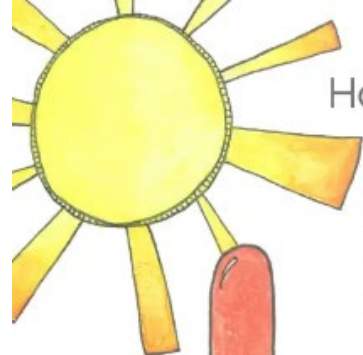


We Learn OUTSIDE in WINTER



We Learn OUTSIDE in SPRING





How to Dress for the Weather Guide

Outdoor play is a great way to support healthy growth and development. Opening the doors to outdoor play in all kinds of weather provides children and adults with opportunities to spark their curiosity, leading to wonder, exploration and learning. When children have the right clothing for the season it contributes to them having positive, rich outdoor play experiences that just can't happen indoors. Get outside, be curious, let children lead and have fun!



We spend time outside every day. It is essential that your child is dressed and prepared for the weather.

[How-to-Dress-for-the-Weather.jpg \(1199x1552\)](http://www.getoutsideandplay.ca)
(activeforlife.com)



Supporting Outdoor Play Year Round



www.getoutsideandplay.ca



www.befitforlife.ca

Enhanced Supports



The classroom teacher is at the centre of your child's learning team and is supported by a school learning team. Based on classroom needs, each kindergarten program will also be supported by a multidisciplinary team that works with large and small groups in the classroom.

This team may consist of:

Education Assistants or Early Childhood Practitioners

Early Learning Strategists

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)

Psychologists

Occupational Therapists (OTs)

Physiotherapists (PTs)

School Family Liaison (SFL)

Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:



- dress themselves (zippers, buttons)
- use the bathroom and wash their hands on their own
- put away toys and help out in other small ways at home
- practice opening and closing snack containers and using a water bottle
- develop consistent bedtime and morning routines that allow 10-13 hours of sleep
- talk, sing and play in *your first language* every day
- limit screen (technology) time to 1 hr/day MAX
- play games, take turns and compromise
- take time to play outside



Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Explore Materials

This summer take time to explore some of these:



Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Read to your child every day:

- read stories together in *your first language* to help your child develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills
- enjoy reading different types of books: picture books, information books, nursery rhymes, poetry
- encourage your child to talk about the pictures and stories as you read together
- visit your community library (when possible)

First Days of Kindergarten

Please send your child to school with:



A backpack (large enough to hold a library book, lunch bag and water bottle)



Lunch bag with lunch, snacks and water bottle



Spare set of clothing (socks, underwear, pants, shirt), labelled in a Ziplock bag in backpack



Indoor Running Shoes (Velcro) that your child can put on independently (shoes will stay at school)



Optional

Good for to -5 °C.
No good for -20 °C



Optional

Good for to -5 °C.
No good for -20 °C



Outdoor Clothing Required

Please ask your child's
teacher if you need help
acquiring some of this
clothing.



OR



OR



Label Child's Items



Lunch and Snack Ideas



Boomerang Lunches



At our school, we do “Boomerang Lunches”. This means:

- Students bring everything home, including packaging and food waste
- Parents see first-hand what their children eat at school
- Uneaten food is not being thrown in the garbage every day

For lunch, your child needs:

- A lunch bag
- A reusable water bottle (filled with water each day)
- Containers/packaging that they can open and close independently (we recommend practicing at home before sending to school)

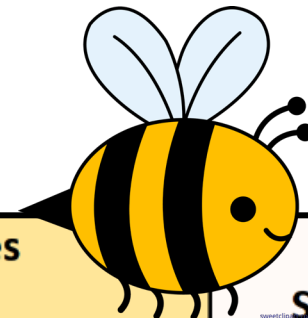
****You may also want to consider investing in a ‘thermos’ to send hot food for lunch (there are no microwaves).**

First Days (Staggered Entry)

Cornerstone



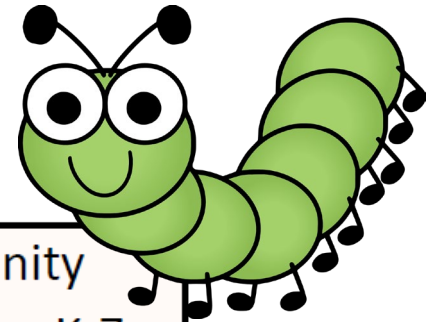
Cornerstone LadyBugs Staggered Entry		Schedule
Monday August 31, 2026	Bus/ Drop- Off Parent Pick Up:	8:20 AM 9:20 AM
Tuesday September 1, 2026	Bus/ Drop- Off Parent Pick Up:	8:20 AM 9:50 AM
Wednesday September 2, 2026	Bus/ Drop- Off Parent Pick Up:	8:20 AM 11:10 AM
Thursday September 3, 2026	Bus/ Drop- Off Parent Pick Up:	No Classes
Friday September 4, 2026	Full Bus Schedule	8:20 AM 12:00 PM



Cornerstone BumbleBees Staggered Entry		Schedule
Monday August 31, 2026	Parent Drop- Off Bus/Parent Pick Up:	2:00 PM 3:00 PM
Tuesday September 1, 2026	Parent Drop- Off Bus/Parent Pick Up:	1:30 PM 3:00 PM
Wednesday September 2, 2026	Parent Drop- Off Bus/Parent Pick Up:	No Classes
Thursday September 3, 2026	Parent Drop- Off Bus/Parent Pick Up:	11:55 AM 3:00 PM
Friday September 4, 2026	Full Bus Schedule	No Classes

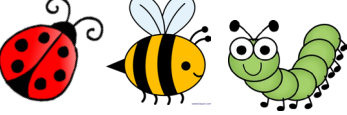
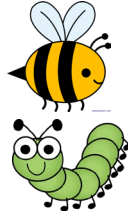
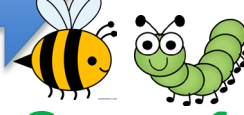
Community First Days (Staggered Entry)

Huntington & Thorncliffe



Community Kindergarten Staggered Entry		Community Last Names A-J	Community Last Names K-Z
Monday August 31, 2026	Drop- Off Pick Up:	9:40 AM 10:40 AM	11:30 AM 12:30 PM
Tuesday September 1, 2026	Drop-Off: Pick Up:	9:50 AM 11:20 AM	11:50 PM 1:20 PM
Wednesday September 2, 2026	Drop-Off: Pick Up:	8:20 AM 11:10 AM	11:55 AM 3:00 PM
Thursday September 3, 2026	Drop-Off: Pick Up:	8:20 AM 3:00 PM	8:20 AM 3:00 PM
Friday September 4, 2026	Drop-Off: Pick Up:	8:20 AM 12:00 PM	8:20 AM 12:00 PM

First Days (Important Dates & Times)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug.  29	1 hour  Aug 31	1.5 hours  Sept 1	~3 hours  Sept 2	 ~3 hours Full day Sept 3	Fri ½ day  Sept 4	 5
Sept.  6	 Sept 7				Fri ½ day  Sept 11	 12
		 Sept 8	 Sept 9	 Sept 10		

Friday Hours:

8:18 am – 12:00 pm

Important Times & Dates



School Hours:

- Breakfast Club 7:50 am – 8:18 am
- School entry 8:18 am
- Flexible Recess 9 minutes
- Dismissal 3:00 pm

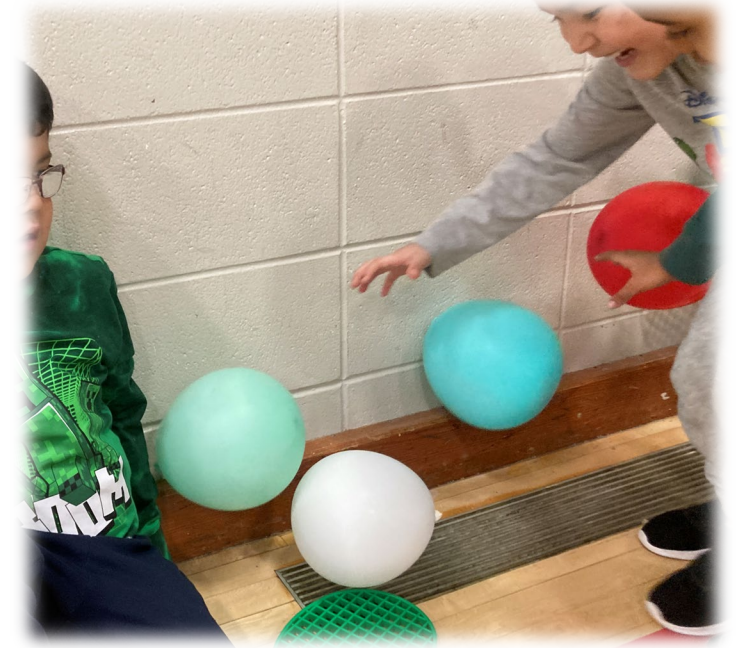
Lunch:

- 11:10 am – 11:53 am
 - Students will have 15 minutes of recess after eating

Fridays:

- Dismissal at 12:00 pm

****Call if your child will be absent**



Attendance Matters in Kindergarten



Absences add up.



Even missing **just 1 day a month** adds up to **260 days by Grade 12** — that's **almost a year and a half of school missed!**



Regular attendance helps your child:

- ✓ Adjust to school routines
- ✓ Build friendships
- ✓ Meet curriculum expectations

Attendance Matters in Kindergarten



Why This Year Matters...

The new curriculum is rich and challenging. Kindergarten lays the foundation for future success.

We work on:

- **Developing foundational literacy** — including understanding how letters and sounds work together to read and write words, and expressing ideas through drawing, talk, and early writing.
- **Building a deep understanding of number** — such as recognizing quantities, composing and decomposing numbers to 10, and solving everyday math problems.
- **Strengthening thinking and communication skills** — by asking questions, making observations, and sharing ideas through stories, play, and conversation.

Transportation/Bussing



- Families need to register for transportation
- Children need to be dressed for the weather
- Never leave your kindergarten child at the bus stop unattended
- A parent/adult needs to be at the bus stop to pick up kindergarten children
- **Please write your child's name and a parent contact phone number INSIDE their backpack**
- Parents need to contact the school if they are picking up their child from school
- [Busing & Transportation | Schools | Calgary Board of Education \(cbe.ab.ca\)](https://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/busing-transportation)

Communication



Sign up for School Messenger to receive emails from the school. This is the primary way we communicate with families. If you do not subscribe for emails, you will only receive limited communication. To subscribe, visit: www.cbe.ab.ca/subscribe

Your **MyCBE** account is where you can access information about your student's progress, school conferences, fees, etc. This is the account you created to complete online registration for your kindergarten child.

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/cbe.cngunn/>

Instagram – https://www.instagram.com/cbe_cngunn/

CNG Kindergarten Page - [Kindergarten at Catherine Nichols Gunn](#)

Ways to be Involved



At school:

- attend **School Council** meetings and events
- volunteer in the classroom or on field trips
- join us for concerts and school events

At home:

- read daily
- watch for school emails and class updates
- talk about everyday experiences
- ask your child: "What can you tell me about your day?" or "How were you a helper today?"
- Make sure your child attends kindergarten every day!

School Council | Council Chair

All parents are members of School Council:

- Monthly meetings (usually Thursday evening)
- We really need kindergarten parents involved in our School Council
- Parent involvement enriches the child's experience



Volunteer Clearance Process



A Calgary Board of Education Police Clearance is required to volunteer at your child's school (Police Clearances from other organizations are not accepted).

Bring a piece of Government issued ID to the school office to begin the process.

It can take several weeks for the paperwork to be cleared so start the volunteer clearance process right away!



Google Translate on CBE Websites

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Forest Lawn High School website. The address bar shows the URL: `school.cbe.ab.ca/school/ForestLawn/Pages/default.aspx`. The browser's bookmark bar includes links to 'Apps', '1. ELL STRATEGIST...', 'ELL Team - Home', 'ALT Strategist Spre...', 'Instructional Suppo...', 'PowerTeacher in th...', 'English Language L...', and 'ELL'. The website header features a navigation menu with 'News Centre', 'Calendar', 'Print', 'For Staff', 'QuickLinks', and a 'Google Translate' button, which is circled in red. A large red arrow points to the 'Google Translate' button. The main content area includes the Forest Lawn High School logo and the motto 'Viator Via Veritatis | Travel by Way of the Truth'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links to 'About Us', 'Teaching & Learning', 'Extracurricular', 'Culture & Envir', 'Get Involved', and 'Registration'. An orange banner below the navigation menu reads 'ALERT: KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 LEARNING FROM HOME' and provides information about the start of at-home learning on Friday, May 7. The bottom section features a large graphic with the words 'HAPPY', 'AFRAID', 'SAD', and 'ANGRY' overlaid on images of faces, and a sidebar with links to 'Kindergarten to Grade 6 Students Move to At-Home Learning' and 'CBE Recognizes CMHA Mental Health Week 2021'.

Forest Lawn High School
Viator Via Veritatis | Travel by Way of the Truth

About Us
Contact & Information

Teaching & Learning
Programs & Classes

Extracurricular
Activities, Clubs & Athletics

Culture & Envir
Support, Health & G

Get Involved
Parents & Volunteers

Registration
Fees & Transportation

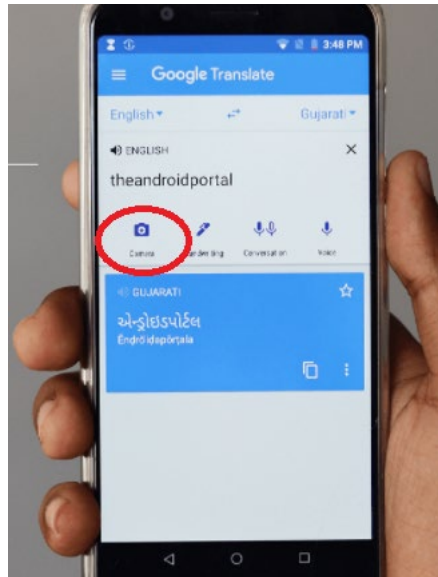
ALERT: KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 LEARNING FROM HOME
Starting Friday, May 7, most K-12 students will be learning at home. At this time, students are expected to return to in-class learning on Tues., May ... [View Full Details](#)

Kindergarten to Grade 6 Students
Move to At-Home Learning
[Read More >](#)

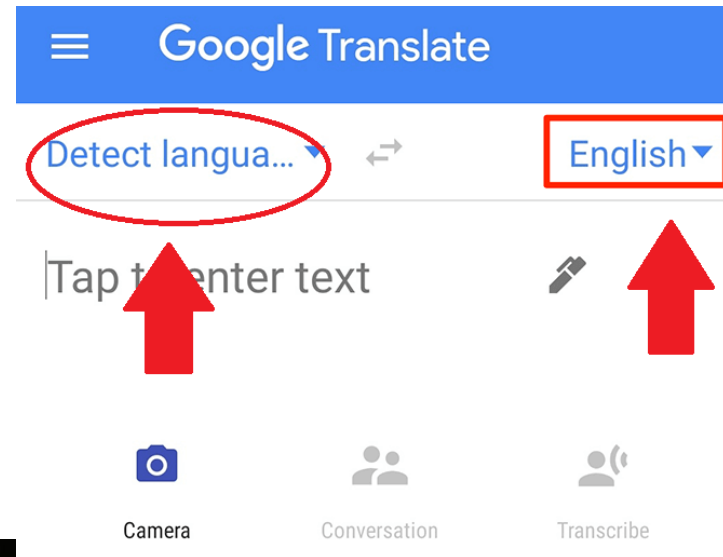
CBE Recognizes CMHA Mental
Health Week 2021
[Read More >](#)

Grade 7-12 At-Home Learning

Calgary Board
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Google Translate App

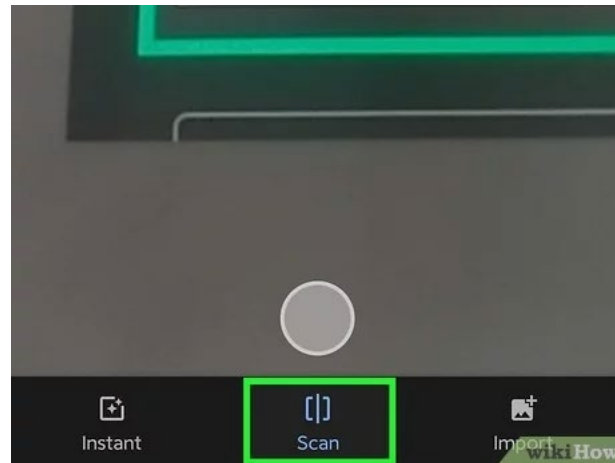


learning | as unique | as every student



Google Translate App

If you have a **long document** tap the **camera** and then the **scan button** at the bottom of the app to translate the entire document.



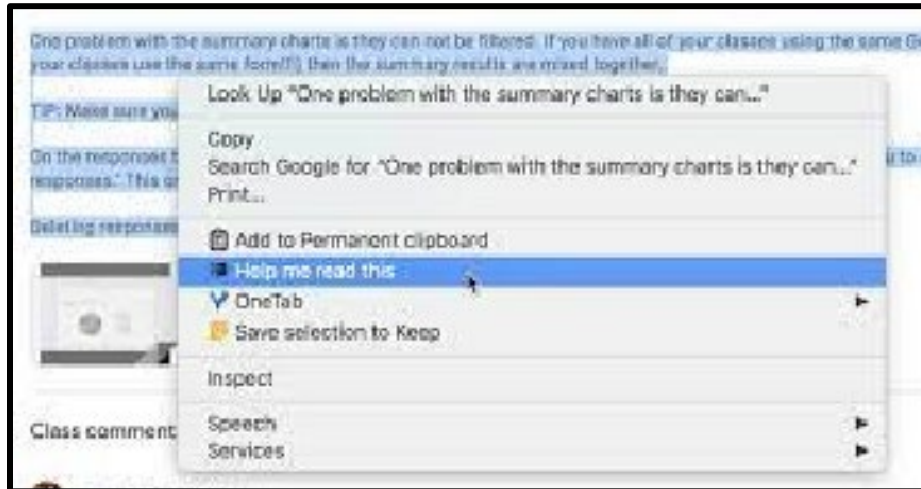
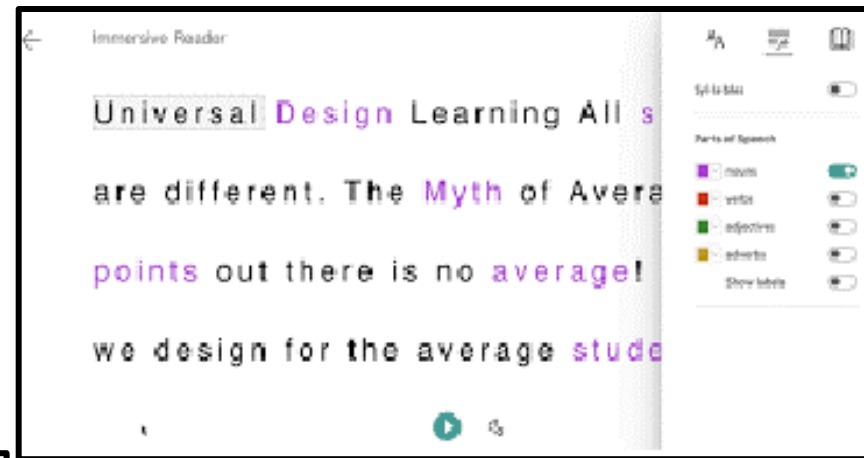
learning | [as unique](#) | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education



Immersive Reader



learning | as unique | as every student



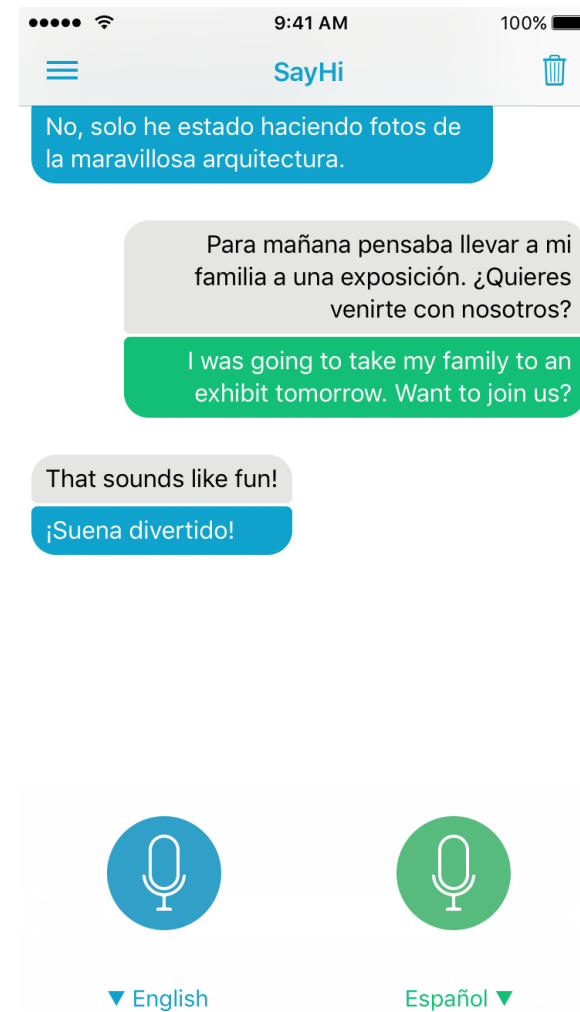
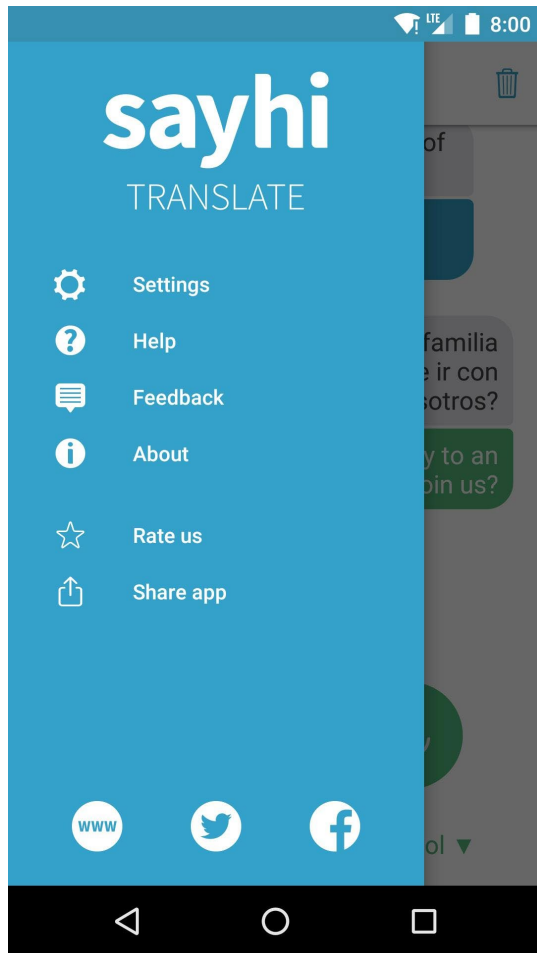
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SAY Hi App for Speaking Translation



Additional Resources



The Calgary Public Library- Top Tips for Kindergarten Readiness*:
<https://calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/kitchen-table-classroom-kindergarten-readiness/>



The Calgary Public Library- Kindergarten Booklist:
https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397_calgarylibrary_kids/1859193931_books_to_get_ready_for_kindergarten?_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380



I'm Ready for Screens- Parent Resource:
https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/11018/ImReadyForScreens_English

*Developed in collaboration with the CPL, Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School Division

<Schools can personalize with additional community information>

Questions

