

# Early Childhood Services (ECS)

Pacekids provides preschool and kindergarten programs for children with diverse needs that can be accessed through Program Unit Funding (PUF) with Alberta Education.

## ECS Program Overview:

- Curriculum based on Alberta Education standards, modified by teachers to meet individual student needs.
- The Program Unit Funded (PUF) model supports a 3-year progression from pre-school year 1 through pre-school year 2 to kindergarten year 3.
- Morning (8:05 – 11:20 a.m.) and afternoon (12:40 – 3:55 p.m.) programming Monday through Friday.
- Transportation available to and from school provided by 4 Seasons Transportation.
- Small class sizes with low child to assistant ratio.
  - Ratios are determined based on the needs of each child and may be modified as necessary.
- Designed for children aged 2 years 8 months to 6 years who have diverse needs and may have physical and/or medical involvement including but not limited to Speech Delay, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Global Developmental Delay, Down Syndrome, and Brain Injury.

\*Program placement is determined by community for transportation services.



Pacekids is a charitable organization that strives to empower children with diverse needs and their families through excellence in therapy, education, and play.

## Our Programs:

- **Early Childhood Services**
  - Preschool and Kindergarten
  - Program Unit Funded
- **In-Home and Community Programs**
  - Funded through FSCD
  - Includes Behavioural & Developmental Supports, Specialized Services, and Triple P

## Our Locations:

**NEW! North Location:**  
#130 2850 Sunridge Blvd NE,  
Calgary, AB T1Y 6G2



**South Location:**  
#130 23 Sunpark Drive SE,  
Calgary, AB T2X 3V1

## Facility Resources:

- Sensory rooms
- Play areas and structure
- Library
- Gym space
- Adaptive toys and communication devices
- Specialized seating equipment

Connect with our ECS team!  
[ecsintake@pacekids.ca](mailto:ecsintake@pacekids.ca)  
403.234.7876  
[pacekids.ca/ecs](http://pacekids.ca/ecs)



## Our Approach:

### Family-centred practice

- We focus on supporting both the development of the child, as well as the functioning and development of the family unit.

### Play-based learning focused on both academics as well as social skills and participation.

- Music programming in each classroom once every two weeks
- Daily gym activities
- Field trips and/or special events

### Individualized programming

- Designed specifically for your child's developmental level, needs, and parent priorities

### Full transdisciplinary therapy team

- Therapists work directly in the classroom to implement strategies and support programming



### Opportunities for parent and caregiver involvement

- Family learning sessions with members of your child's learning team

### Consistent and easy communication between family and

### Pacekids team

- Easy-to-use family communication app that provides regular updates
- Multilingual support available

### Collaboration with our Community and In-Home Program where applicable

- This includes Behavioural & Developmental Supports, Specialized Services, and Triple P

### Transition planning available

- Support for children moving to different programs

### Off-site consultation and collaboration Alberta Children's Hospital Clinics

- Augmentative Communication and Educational Technology Service, Hearing, Feeding, Neurology, Seating, Neuromotor, and Orthopedic



### Fees :

| Funding                           | Program Unit Funding (PUF)                                            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Registration Fee (Non-Refundable) | <u>Single child:</u><br>\$50/year<br><u>Family Rate:</u><br>\$75/year |
| Program Fee (Supplies)            | \$30/month                                                            |
| Transportation Fee                | \$0                                                                   |

\*Subsidy – Low income subsidies are available; please inquire to request a Fee Waiver Application.

\*All fees are subject to change pending Alberta Education Funding

### Our Team:

|                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • ECS Manager             | • Speech-Language Pathologist |
| • Education Lead          | • Occupational Therapist      |
| • ECS Intake Team         | • Physiotherapist             |
| • ECS Teachers            | • Behavioural Strategist      |
| • Classroom Therapy Aides |                               |
| • Clinical Lead           |                               |

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# Early Childhood Services (ECS) Frequently Asked Questions



## What are your classroom sizes?

Our class sizes are thoughtfully determined based on individual student needs, ensuring every child receives the attention and support they deserve.

## Are your therapists onsite?

Yes. Pacekids is proud to have an onsite therapy team that is accessible daily to the children and classroom staff. Children are not subject to a set number of hours/week so that needs can be supported as they emerge.

## What is your Transportation Model?

Pacekids offers year-round, safe, and comfortable transportation arrangements for our children at no cost, including car seats. Our transportation program is managed by 4 Seasons Transportation, a Calgary-based service dedicated to the safe transport of children with diverse needs to and from school. They are uniquely equipped to support our children through: internal training, a student Behavior Specialist, a Supervisor System of Driver Support.

Children are grouped geographically for AM and PM programs to streamline services and enhance overall efficiency. We're happy to support different pick-up/drop-off locations and provide transport to daycares and day homes as well. While we can accommodate various locations, we do ask that your pick-up/drop-off spot remains consistent week-to-week to ensure smooth scheduling.

## Are there opportunities for parent learning?

Pacekids is pleased to offer a number of Family Sessions to support our families and children in generalizing skills learned at school into the home and community setting. These sessions are offered in a variety of forms throughout the school year, and may include: virtual presentations and that parents can watch live or watch later as they are recorded.

## What are your classroom ratios?

Our ECS program maintains a low child-to-staff ratios that are tailored to each child's needs and adjusted as necessary.

## How will you communicate updates about my child?

Pacekids uses a convenient app-based parent communication program that provides daily pictures and updates of your child's day. This two-way communication system provides families with a great picture (literally!) and update of how their child's day was, as well as suggestions on what can be worked on at home.

## What fees does your program have?

Pacekids has a \$50 non-refundable annual registration fee per child (or \$75 family rate) and a \$30/month supplies fee. We offer complimentary transportation services, including car seats. For information about Mild/Moderate program fees, please contact us at [ecsintake@pacekids.ca](mailto:ecsintake@pacekids.ca).

## Is there any programming that runs outside of the classroom?

Yes! We want Pacekids children to have experiences they would have at any other school. We offer field trips and events throughout the school year, including visits to Treehouse, the Library, and We Rock the Spectrum. We also host annual visits from Mad Science, Sport Ball, and Sprog and Sprocket, along with therapy dogs, puppeteers, and more!



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# Heart, Hope, Healing Steps

## The Story of Emmett

After waiting three years for children, Dan and Ashley had twins Isaac and Emmett, but learned during prenatal scans that Emmett had a heart condition. Dan and Ashley were told Emmett might not even survive until full term. At around one month of age, Emmett underwent heart surgery, which was successful, but resulted in considerable brain damage.

Because Emmett and Isaac are twins, Ashley and Dan quickly noticed a difference in the two boy's development. Isaac met typical baby/toddler milestones within expected time frames, while Emmett didn't seem to be interested in moving at all.

**Ashley and Dan began looking for programs that would help Emmett grow and quickly discovered Pacekids. Ever since then, Emmett has been running, rolling, and enjoying exciting new learning opportunities with the help of his yellow crocodile walker.**

The bright and social four-year-old started at Pacekids in September 2022 and, with the help of his classroom team and therapists, enjoys independent movement every day.

"The thing we have been most excited about this year is Emmett's movement," said Ashley, Emmett's mother. "For the longest time, Emmett was content to just sit and watch the world."

"I like that Pacekids is structured like a preschool. I like that they do circle time and all that stuff. I feel like, for Emmett, having to go to school after this, it's really important that he starts to get used to a routine and a structure – that there are times of sitting and listening, and then there are times of playing and activity."



**Watch Emmett Reist's journey with Pacekids:**  
[pacekids.ca/emmett-heart-hope-healing-steps](https://pacekids.ca/emmett-heart-hope-healing-steps)



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