



School-Aged Child Care on School Grounds!

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) is excited to announce the opening of 30 child care spaces for school aged care on school grounds at Gordon Terrace Elementary School *through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund program*, and an additional 24 spaces at Highlands Elementary School with Just4Kids.

"Child care needs don't stop when children start school," said Jodie Wickens, B.C. Minister of State for Child Care and Children and Youth with Support Needs. "That's why we're delivering on school-aged child care on school grounds, which makes life easier for busy parents and supports children's growth and learning in a familiar environment."

School-aged child care on school grounds is designed to support the well-being of children and the practical needs of families, contributing to a more integrated and community-focused approach to child care and education.

"These new spots in Southeast Kootenay will help more kids get off waitlists and into affordable child care close to home, making drop-offs and pick-ups a little easier for busy parents on the go," said Jenna Sudds, federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. "It's a big investment in our children's future and the strength of our communities."

The ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund is jointly supported by provincial investments and federal funding under the 2021–2022 to 2025–2026 Canada-British Columbia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. Since launching in July 2018, the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund has supported and accelerated the creation of new licensed child care, helping to bring quality, accessible, inclusive, and affordable child care to more families throughout B.C.

"As a parent who lives in Baynes Lake, works in Fernie and wants to have our child attend the Jaffray school, I am excited to hear the news of a School Aged Care facility opening on school grounds in Jaffray as well as other communities," said Shelby Dominick, parent. "I've been worried about finding reliable, quality care in our area, but thanks to the ChildCareBC New Spaces Funding, I can look forward to her attending the same school as her neighbours and local friends. This also provides an excellent employment opportunity to EA's, parents and/or grandparents in our community where there are few job opportunities."

In the spring of 2024, School District No. 5 (SD5), in partnership with non-profit providers, made applications to the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund. The School District received approval of more than \$2.7 million *through the ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund program*.

In addition to the 54 spaces opening, School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) will be creating 84 more school aged care on school grounds spaces across the district:

- Elkford, Rocky Mountain Elementary School in partnership with Elk Valley Women's Task Force creating 24 spaces.



- Jaffray, Jaffray Elementary Senior Secondary School in partnership with Sand Creek Community Club – South Country Social Planning creating 30 spaces.
- Cranbrook, Steeples Elementary School, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, creating 30 spaces.

Board Chair, Doug McPhee, says, “The District is excited *about* the opening of these new spaces, which are designed to support the well-being of children and the practical needs of families.”

McPhee emphasizes ongoing efforts and the commitment to further integrated progress. “SD5 will continue to address the collective desire to support all families across the District.”

Learn More:

For more information for school districts looking to create more child care on school grounds, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/childcarebc-programs/childcare-new-spaces-fund# schooldistricts>

For more information about ChildCareBC, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/childcare

[*For more information on the Canada-British Columbia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2021 to 2026 - Canada.ca*](#)