

CITY OF ABBOTSFORD
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

BEYOND THE BELL



2026/27
PARENT HANDBOOK

[DIRECT2REC.COM](https://www.direct2rec.com)



Welcome to Beyond the Bell

Thank you for registering your child in Beyond the Bell! We look forward to getting to know you this school year.

Beyond the Bell runs for 2 hours after class dismissal. Leaders and students will walk to ARC (Abbotsford Recreation Centre) for pick-up at the end of the day. Beyond the Bell is available for students attending kindergarten to grade five at McMillan Elementary.

Students will participate in activities geared towards creative expression, learning, discovery, fundamental movement skills, and overall health and well-being. They will spend time playing outside, learning new skills in gymnasium and exploring their creativity through games and crafts in our multi-purpose rooms. Each month we focus on a new theme such as gardening, superheroes, under the sea, space and more! We are committed to ensuring that your child will have a positive experience.



We believe that every child has a special style, personality, and potential which makes him/her a unique individual. We facilitate and lead experiences that encourage creativity, physical literacy and play through a variety of structured and unstructured recreational experiences. We understand the importance of fostering positive recreational experiences for the healthy development of your child. We incorporate a variety of concepts of play that are proven to result in positive developmental experiences for children.

Recreation Based Play: As a recreation based program we encourage the participation in a variety of recreational experiences. The opportunities are endless but some include: arts and crafts, reading, and playing games. Your child(ren) will be encouraged to engage in a variety of these experiences that enhance their overall wellbeing.

Physical Literacy: Physical Literacy promotes children to master their fundamental movement skills. These skills allow them to become more confident in their physical abilities and become active for life!

Outdoor Adventurous Play: This type of play encourages children to engage in thrilling and exciting forms of outside play where they are able to test their limits. Encouraging this type of play fosters positive developmental experiences for children resulting in benefits to their cognitive, social and physical wellbeing. Some examples of this include: playing at high speeds, with heights, near elements, and rough and tumble play. This play concept is practiced with trained leaders who are able to identify hazards and assist children in setting boundaries.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2026/2027 school year opens May 8, 2026 at 9am. Fill out the online request.

During Kindergarten gradual entry, the program will start at its regular time and does not accommodate early pick-ups.

Monthly program fees do not include early dismissal days or professional days. Beyond the Bell will accommodate early dismissal days and have staff leaders on site when the bell rings. Program fees will be adjusted for the additional program time and parents will need to indicate these days on their registration form.

The City of Abbotsford offers full day Pro-D camps including before and aftercare for non-instructional days. Visit DiRECT2REC.COM or call ARC or MRC to register.

At the time of registration for Beyond the Bell, you will need:

- Complete online request form
- Completed registration form and waiver
- Credit card set up for pre-authorized payments

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Any and all changes are the customer's responsibility and must be received in writing to the Abbotsford Recreation Centre 5 business days prior to a payment date for any changes to your credit card information or personal information.

DECLINED CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

All declined credit card payments will be subject to a \$25 charge that will be added to your City of Abbotsford account. The account will be frozen until payment has been made. Two (2) or more declined payments may eliminate Payment Plan as an option. This payment is due immediately following notification from the City of Abbotsford staff and the account will be suspended until payment is received.

CANCELLATIONS, WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS

CANCELLATIONS

Beyond the Bell is scheduled to follow the school districts calendar with school closures, holiday breaks, professional days and early dismissal. In the event of inclement weather conditions, power outages, emergencies, and/or utility disruptions the school may close. Beyond the Bell will follow the same safety protocol and cancel the program for that day(s).

WITHDRAWALS & REFUNDS

Should you wish to withdraw your child from the program, the City's policy will be followed. Parents or guardians must give a minimum of 3 days notice to receive a refund. If less than 3 days notice, a Doctor's note may be required. Please call ARC front desk at 604.853.4221 to withdraw.

Refunds will be processed and returned to the individual account should the program be cancelled for any reason.

Program payments are paid monthly. Should your family go on short-term holidays or not require access to the program for any reason, you will need to give 3 days notice to receive a refund.

MONDAY - FRIDAY
2 HOURS FROM DISMISSAL
MCMILLAN (ARC) \$16.80/DAY

WHAT TO BRING

Please pack nutritious (nut-free) snacks and plenty of water every day. Program leaders will also take advantage of the school's outdoor spaces, please ensure your child comes prepared with weather-appropriate clothing and footwear for indoor and outdoor play. Your child will be outside rain or shine.

Please refrain from having your child bring any personal items to the program (i.e. electronics, games, toys). Beyond the Bell staff are not responsible for any lost or stolen items during program and students will be asked to keep all personal belongings in their backpacks for the duration of the program.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

MEDICAL INFORMATION

It is vital that we are aware of your child's medical history. Please inform us at the time of registration, or email recschool@abbotsford.ca.

INJURY

Minor injury: If your child sustains a minor injury while in the program, leaders are trained and will provide first-aid treatment. Leaders will report the incident to parents/guardians at time of pick up.

Major injury: In the case of an injury requiring medical attention, the child's parents will be notified immediately. An injury to the head will be reported regardless and parent will be contacted immediately. If we are unable to contact a parent/guardian the alternative contact person will be called.

EMERGENCY

All leaders maintain current first-aid certification and earthquake preparedness training. In case of a fire, long term power failure, extreme weather conditions or an evacuation of the facility due to a real situation, parents will be notified as soon as possible, including the alternate location of where to pick up your child(ren). Parents will be notified by phone when possible or by a notice posted at the facility.

HEALTH & SAFETY

In the event of illness, we ask that your child not attend the program for the health and safety of leaders, children, and their families. Your child is not permitted to attend if any of the following symptoms are present:

- Communicable illness (chicken pox, measles, etc.)
- Diarrhea
- Eye infection
- Fever
- Persistent cough
- Scabies
- Yellow/green mucus running from child's nose
- Skin infection
- Vomiting

In the event your child becomes ill in program, we will contact you immediately for pick up. If we are unable to get a hold of you, we will contact the emergency contact as stated on participant information form. Once your child has been symptom free for 24-hours, they will be permitted to attend the program again.

RESPECTFUL AND BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

The City of Abbotsford aims to provide children with a rewarding experience by allowing them to grow and learn in a safe and fun environment. This requires cooperation and consideration for the rights and property of others.

The City of Abbotsford abides by the Respectful Workplace (school) Policy which outlines:

Abbotsford's commitment to provide a respectful work environment where all employees, elected officials, volunteers, suppliers and contractors act and are treated in a fair and respectful manner. The City will not tolerate or condone discrimination, harassment, bullying or any other disrespectful behaviour at our workplaces/school. Consequences will occur from non-compliance of this Policy, and will be determined on a case by case basis; taking into account the relevant circumstances. Beyond the Bell students, parents, and guardians are expected to abide by this policy in all interactions and activities.

The following behavior expectations will be emphasized:

- Children will be given positive, clear, simple, and consistent instructions regarding appropriate behavior. Children will work with program leaders to identify appropriate behavior during program and agree to abide by it.
- Program leaders will encourage all children to participate in every planned activity. Our goal is to support every child's growth through active participation and engagement.

- All participants are expected to abide by the Respectful Workplace/School Policy. Students who are not following this code of conduct will be removed from participating in the activity until they are able to behave more appropriately.
- It is unacceptable for a child to hurt others or the surrounding environment (i.e. equipment, furniture).
- One-to-one discussions, verbal warnings/redirection will be the primary method of behavioral management.
- Behavioral challenges will be treated with confidentiality. Incidents will not be discussed with other children or parents and will be limited amongst employees.
- Beyond the Bell leaders will discuss any serious behavioral challenges that have occurred during the day with parents/guardians at time of pick-up.

