

# Learning English with CBC Radio – Living in Alberta



## Back to School Information Kit

by

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CBC

**Government  
of Alberta** ■

## Employment Enhancement

Lesson:	Tips for Parents
Topic:	Back to School Information Kit
CLB Level:	6
CLB Skills:	Reading, Writing
Essential Skill(s):	Reading, Writing, Document Use, Thinking Skills (Finding Information), Numeracy (Scheduling, Measurement)

<b>CLB Outcomes</b>	
Reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners will demonstrate the ability to use an online reference source.</li> <li>• Learners will be able to demonstrate comprehension of a moderately complex text.</li> <li>• Learners will be able to identify factual details and some inferred meanings in moderately complex texts containing advice and suggestions.</li> </ul>
Writing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners will be able to take notes from a page of written information.</li> <li>• Learners will be able to write one or two paragraphs to summarize information.</li> </ul>
<b>Language Skills</b>	
Grammar Focus:	
Vocabulary:	<i>eliminate, register, requirements, process, pursue, exploration, educational, principal, encourage, options, similar, intends, location, institution, tour</i>
<p><b>Culture</b>            Parents/guardians of children in schools are expected to be actively involved in their children's learning. Access to information on education in Alberta such as the curriculum and programs set up to help children and parents is made public and published on the internet. Even school calendars are put on the internet so parents know what to expect during the year.</p>	

Websites:

<http://education.alberta.ca/parents/role/tips.aspx>

[www.learnersdictionary.com](http://www.learnersdictionary.com)    [www.thesaurus.com](http://www.thesaurus.com)

## Introduction

Before you read, complete the first two columns of the KWL chart below:

K	W	L
What I <b>know</b> preparing kids to go back to school.	What I <b>want</b> to know about preparing kids to go back to school.	What I <b>learned</b> about preparing kids to go back to school.

## Pre-reading

It was the first day of school, September 4, 2011 and Donna Weinter was running late. She had gone to bed late the night before trying to get everything ready for her daughter, Tamia Weinter, who was starting grade 1. Tamia had also gone to bed late because her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday was on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and her mum had a party for her that had ended at 9PM. That morning Donna could not find the school forms that she was supposed to have completed and returned to the school before the first day. Many things had changed since she registered Tamia for school. They had moved and their phone number had changed. Donna quickly wrote down the new contact details, emergency contact name, and the family doctor's information on a piece of paper and gave it to Tamia. She told Tamia not to lose the piece paper and to keep it on her in case anything happened. After handing Tamia the piece of paper, Donna rushed her daughter to the bus stop to wait for the Yellow School bus. Once Tamia was on the bus, Donna caught her bus to Sears where she worked as a Sales Associate.

*Address: 17823 - 87 ave, Edmonton, AB,  
T5T 7H4  
Donna Weinter's (mum) cell: 587 433  
6789 home #: 780 234 9876 work : 780  
123 7890  
Work address: Sears Southside Mall,  
6789 - 32ave  
Mimi Auberge (aunt) cell: 587 567  
0987. Mimi's address 8721 - 56 St,  
Edmonton, AB, T6J 3D8  
Dr. D. Devon 5879 -102 ave, Edmonton,  
AB, T8J 1F4. - phone 780-466-3105*

## Food for thought

1. What kind of first day at school do you think Tamia is going to have?
2. What sort of things to parents need to do to prepare their kids for the new school year?
3. Do you remember your first day of school? What was it like?

## Main Reading

Title: Tips for Parents

Glossary<sup>1</sup>

Routine	—	a regular way of doing things in a particular order
Precaution	—	something that is done to prevent possible harm or trouble from happening in the future
Prerequisite	—	something that you officially must have or do before you can have or do something else
Overwhelming	—	used to describe something that is so confusing, difficult, etc., that you feel unable to do it
Teen	—	someone who is between 13 and 19 years old : Teenager

As you read the selection, use *context clues* to help you figure out the meaning of the following words that you will come across: *eliminate, register, requirements, process, pursue*

Reading Strategy Tip: You will notice that the reading is divided into sections with headings. Before you read predict, try to guess what tips each of these sections “Preparing for School”, “Things to Consider Before the First Day of School”, “Going to a New School”, and “Helping Your Child Plan for the Future” will be about. Write down your predictions on a separate sheet of paper

### Tips for Parents

#### Preparing for School

- **Ease Your Child into a New Routine.** Have him or her go to bed at school-night bedtime a few nights before the first day. Set an alarm clock for the correct school wake-up time.
- **Try a School Bus Run.** Go over your child's school bus route with him or her if it's going to be a first-time bus ride. Find out how long the ride is, and talk about things like bus safety.
- **Get Ready the Night Before.** Establish a routine that requires your child to pick an outfit for the next school day, and to pack a book bag every night before bed. This will help eliminate any last minute rushing in the morning.

<sup>1</sup> Definitions taken from [www.learnersdictionary.com](http://www.learnersdictionary.com)

## Things to Consider Before the First Day of School

### About the School

- Is your child registered?
- Do you know when the first day of school is and what time it starts?
- Have you completed emergency contact forms and sent them back to the school?

### Getting to and from School

- Have you reviewed safety precautions with your child regarding traffic and strangers?
- If your child is riding a bike, does he or she know the school's rules for bicycles?
- If your child is taking a bus, does your child know the bus route? Does your child know what to do if he or she gets lost?
- Does your child know whether to come home or go to a babysitter after school?
- If you're not home after school, does your child know who will be responsible for him or her, what the rules are, and how to get help in an emergency?
- If your child is going to a babysitter, does he or she know how to get to there?

### Going to a New School

- **Talk About It.** Encourage your child to share his or her feelings. Talk about the excitement of starting at a new school, and discuss any concerns your child might have.
- **Take a School Tour.** Call the school and arrange to tour the school with your child. Help your child find their way around the school and the location of their classroom and the bathroom. If possible, meet the teacher and principal.
- **Make a New Friend.** If possible, introduce your child to a classmate before the first day of school.

### Helping Your Child Prepare for High School

- **Educate Yourself.** Find out the requirements, choices, and processes involved in planning your teen's senior high school program with your child's teacher. Your teen will need your assistance and advice.
- **Plan Carefully.** Some Grade 10 courses are prerequisites for more advanced high school courses. As well, certain programs enable students to meet entry requirements for post-secondary programs or acquire the knowledge and skills to enter directly into a career. Keep future goals in mind when planning grade 10 programs.
- **Prepare for Post-Secondary.** If your teen intends to enter a post-secondary institution after high school, check the calendars of these institutions for admission requirements to plan his or her senior high school program accordingly.

### Helping Your Child Plan for the Future

- Even as an adult, career decisions can be overwhelming. Encourage your child and give them the time and space to make their own decisions.
- Ask your teen about the kinds of careers they are considering and do not worry if it is

accounting one day and nursing the next. They're thinking things over and imagining themselves in different roles. Encourage them to take this exploration a bit further. Help them learn more about these choices. Find out why these careers are attractive to them and look at other careers they may not have considered that could offer similar rewards.

- Encourage your teen to think about the educational path they will need to follow to pursue the careers they're considering. Will they need to take certain subjects in high school to keep these options open? What kind of post-secondary education will they need? Where is the program offered and how long does it take to complete?
- Know where you and your teen can go to explore options or get more information. A great place to start is [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\)](http://education.alberta.ca/parents/role/tips.aspx). This Web site offers up-to-date career profiles, links to post-secondary institutions, complete information on students finance and links to a variety of interactive career planning tools.

Adapted from <http://education.alberta.ca/parents/role/tips.aspx>

## Reading Comprehension

1. What sort of forms does the school need from parents/guardians before the first day of school?
2. List the different ways that children can use to go to and from school.
3. What kind of information do children need to know about getting to and from school?
4. How can a parent arrange a tour of a new school for their child?
5. How can parents help their children prepare for high school?
6. Where can parents get more information on career planning for their children?

## Vocabulary Development

### A. Context Clues

Use context clues from the reading to guess the meaning of the following words: *eliminate*, *register*, *requirements*, *process*, *pursue*

## B. Definition Matching

The words in italics below are taken from the reading. These words are also found on the *list of the first 2000 most commonly used words of English* and on the *Academic Word List*. Match the words to the correct definition and find the part of speech. The first one has been done for you as an example.

*exploration, educational, principal, encourage, option, similar, intend, location, institution, tour*

	Word	Part of speech	Definition
1.	principal	Noun	The person in charge of a public school
2.			The act of looking at something in a careful way to learn more about it.
3.			An activity in which you go through a place (such as a building or city) in order to see and learn about the different parts of it
4.			The opportunity or ability to choose something or to choose between two or more things
5.			To make someone more determined, hopeful, or confident
6.			Almost the same as someone or something else
7.			To plan or want to do (something) : to have (something) in your mind as a purpose or goal
8.			An established organization
9.			Having to do with the action or process of teaching and learning.
10.			A place or position

## C. Synonyms and Antonyms

A word can have more than one synonym and antonym. In some cases a word may not have a synonym or antonym. Complete the table below by looking up the synonyms and antonyms of the key words as they relate to the reading. Use [www.thesaurus.com](http://www.thesaurus.com) to help you.

Word	Synonym	Antonym
Encourage		
Explore		
Similar		
Option		
Educational		

## Reading Strategy

Go back to the sheet of paper where you wrote down your predictions on the tips for each section in the reading selection. Were your predictions correct? Complete the table below by summarizing the information provided in each section and then circling how close your prediction was.

Section	Tips Summary	My Prediction
Preparing for School		Exact / Close / Not close
Things to Consider Before the First Day of School		Exact / Close / Not close
Going to a New School		Exact / Close / Not close
Helping Your Child Plan for the Future		Exact / Close / Not close

## Grammar Focus / Pragmatic Competence

### Exercise 1 – Identifying the Imperative

You will notice that some sentences in the reading start with a verb in the infinitive / base form.

Examples:

*Set an alarm clock for the correct school wake up time.*

*Find out how long the ride is, and talk about things like bus safety.*

The sentences do not look like they have a subject (such as I, you, he, she, it, they ...). In reality, these sentences do have a subject but it is not stated. In this case, the subject is you! The subject of these sentences is the person reading / the parent reading the tips. When a sentence starts with a verb in the infinitive and there is no subject mentioned but implied we say that it is a sentence that uses the imperative. Imperatives can be used to give friendly informal advice.



Read the selection again and underline five sentences that use the imperative form. Write these sentences in the space below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Exercise 2 – Using the Imperative

Write some tips for parents on getting their kindergarten children ready for school **the night before** so that there are no delays in the morning. It is a good idea to have certain tasks / things done the night before. Keywords for the tasks that need to be done are written in italics in the box below. Include time in your tips. The children have to be in bed by **8:30PM**. The first one has been done for you as an example

*book bag, alarm clock, lunch kit, homework, outfit, supper, T.V., bath / shower, bedtime story*

#### Getting Ready the Night Before

- Have supper at 6PM.
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



## Reading – Writing Link

Read the complete article on tips for parents at <http://education.alberta.ca/parents/role/tips.aspx>. What have you learned about preparing kids to go back to school? Write down what you have learned.

What I have learned about preparing kids for back to school

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## Link to Essential Skills

Essential skills are the skills needed for work, learning, and life ([www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca)). They are enabling skills that help you perform daily tasks as well as tasks required on the job. In this lesson you will focus on **Document Use**. Parents / guardians of school kids have to complete a number of forms. An important form is the one that asks for emergency contact details. Schools will use the information on this form if there is an emergency at the school and the school needs to get a hold of the parent(s) / guardian(s) or someone authorized by the parent (s).

Go back to the beginning of this lesson and read the **Pre-reading** (about Donna and Tamia) once more. Imagine that you are Donna and you have to fill in the Emergency Contact Form on the next page required by Tamia’s school, Greenwood Elementary School. Look at the emergency contact form below and think about the information you would put in each section. Some sections may not be applicable. You can put N/A in these sections or leave them blank. Use the information in the Pre-reading section to complete the form.

GreenWood Elementary School  
Emergency Contact Form

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Child's Surname ..... Date of Birth .....

Child's First name ..... Middle Name .....

Home Address .....  
.....

Home Telephone Number.....

**FAMILY INFORMATION**

Sibling names and dates of birth:  
.....  
.....

**Mother**

Surname ..... First name.....

Address (if different from above) .....

Home Tel No..... Work Tel No..... Cell .....

Occupation.....

Place of work.....

**Father**

Surname ..... First name .....

Address (if different from above)  
.....

Home Tel No..... Work Tel No ..... Cell .....

Occupation.....

Place of work .....

**Other Emergency Contacts**

Name .....	Name .....
Address .....	Address .....
.....	.....
Tel No. .... Cell No.....	Tel No. .... Cell No.....
.....	.....
Relationship to child (e.g. grandparent, neighbour) .....	Relationship to child (e.g. grandparent, neighbour) .....

**MEDICAL INFORMATION**

Name of your child's Doctor.....

Doctor's Tel No.....

Doctor's Address .....

Medical information (allergies, epilepsy, other medical conditions etc)  
.....

## **Answer Keys**

### **Reading Comprehension**

1. Answers will vary but should include - emergency contact forms and registration forms.
2. They can get to school by bike, bus, on foot,( or parents may pick them up)
3. Children need to know about traffic safety, talking to strangers, the bus route, what to do in an emergency, and where to go after school.
4. Parents can call the school and arrange for a tour.
5. Parents can learn more about the requirements for high school. Parents can discuss the processes and requirements with the teacher. Parents should work with their children in determining career goals and planning the school path that children need to take in order to reach the career goals.
6. The Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website is a website that has a lot of information on careers and career planning.

### **Vocabulary Development**

#### **A. Context Clues**

Eliminate - to remove (something that is not wanted or needed) : to get rid of (something)

Register - to put your name on an official list

Requirements- something that is necessary for something else to happen or be done

Process - a series of actions that produce something or that lead to a particular

Pursue - to try to get or do (something) over a period of time

**B. Definition Matching**

	<b>Word</b>	<b>Part of speech</b>	<b>Definition</b>
1.	Principal	Noun	The person in charge of a public school
2.	Exploration	Noun	The act of looking at something in a careful way to learn more about it.
3.	Tour	Noun	An activity in which you go through a place (such as a building or city) in order to see and learn about the different parts of it
4.	Option	Noun	The opportunity or ability to choose something or to choose between two or more things
5.	Encourage	Verb	To make someone more determined, hopeful, or confident
6.	Similar	Adjective	Almost the same as someone or something else
7.	Intend	Verb	To plan or want to do (something) : to have (something) in your mind as a purpose or goal
8.	Institution	Noun	An established organization
9.	Educational	Adjective	Having to do with the action or process of teaching and learning.
10.	Location	Noun	A place or position

**C. Synonyms and Antonyms**

A word can have more than one synonym and antonym. In some cases a word may not have a synonym or antonym. The table below provides more than one synonym and antonym for each of the key words. Highlight the best synonym and antonym that relates to the reading. Use online reference sites such as [www.thesaurus.com](http://www.thesaurus.com) to help you. The first one has been done for you as an example.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Synonym</b>	<b>Antonym</b>
encourage	strengthen	discourage
explore	investigate	_____
similar	same / identical	unlike or different
option	choice	_____
educational	academic	_____

**Reading Strategy**

Answers will vary

## Grammar Focus / Pragmatic Competence

\*Answers are not limited to the sentences written below\*\*

Exercise 1 –

1. Encourage your child to share his or her feelings.
2. Call the school and arrange to tour the school with your child.
3. Know where you and your teen can go to explore career options or get more information.
4. Establish a routine that requires your child to pick an outfit for the next school day, and to pack a book bag every night before bed.
5. Try a school bus run.

Exercise 2 – Using the Imperative

Write some tips for parents on getting their kindergarten children ready for school **the night before** so that there are no delays in the morning. It is a good idea to have certain tasks / things done the night before. Keywords for the tasks that need to be done are written in italics in the box below. Include time in your tips. The children have to be in bed by **8:30PM**. The first one has been done for you as an example

*book bag, alarm clock, lunch kit, homework, outfit, supper, T.V., bath / shower, bedtime story*

Getting Ready the Night Before: Tips for Parents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have supper at 6PM.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help kids lay out the outfit for the next day.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Watch T.V. between 6:45 and 7:15 while you prepare the lunch kit for the next day.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give the kids a bath at 8PM.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help kids with their homework.</li><li>•</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read a bedtime story at 8:15 PM.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help kids pack their book bags.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set the alarm clock for 7AM.</li></ul>

## Reading –Writing Link

\*Summaries will vary\*\*

**Link to Essential Skills**

GreenWood Elementary School  
Emergency Contact Form

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Child's Surname *Weinter*                      Date of Birth *September 3, 2005*

Child's First name *Tamia*                      Middle Name *N/A*

Home Address *17823 -87 Ave, Edmonton, AB, T5T 7H4*

Home Telephone Number *780 234 9876*

**FAMILY INFORMATION**

Sibling names and dates of birth: *N/A*

**Mother**

Surname *Weinter*      First name *Donna*

Address (if different from above) .....

Home Tel No *780 234 9876* Work Tel No *780 123 7890* Cell *587 433 6789*

Occupation *Sales Associate*

Place of work *Sears Southside Mall*



**Father** *N/A*

Surname ..... First name .....

Address (if different from above)  
.....

Home Tel No..... Work Tel No ..... Cell .....

Occupation.....

Place of work .....

**Other Emergency Contacts**

Name *Mimi Auberge*

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Address *8721 - 56St, Edmonton,*

Tel No. .... Cell No.....

*AB T6J 3D8*

Relationship to child (e.g. grandparent,  
neighbour)

.....

Tel No. *N/A* Cell No *587 567 0987*

Relationship to child (e.g. grandparent,  
neighbour)

*Aunt*

**MEDICAL INFORMATION**

Name of your child's Doctor *Dr. Devon*

Doctor's Tel No *780 466 3105*

Doctor's Address *5879 102 Ave, Edmonton, AB T8J 1F4*

Medical information (allergies, epilepsy, other medical conditions etc)

*N/A*