

2019 BLUEBERRY SCHOOL THOUGHT EXCHANGE REPORT

Parkland School Division 70
Blueberry School

Q1 What are some things you appreciate and some concerns you have about our school this year?

I do like how the older kids help out the younger kids Older role models can give the younger ones incentives to learn

4.3  (37 )
Ranked #1 of 134



I love all the long standing traditions that blueberry continues to host like the monster mash, fun in the sun day etc. Great for a sense of school community. It's awesome to see staff donating their time after school hours

4.1  (39 )
Ranked #2 of 134



The school is clean! Kudos to the custodial staff

4.1  (39 )
Ranked #3 of 134



Hot lunch, Caring kids and Grade 9 lunches Happy to have the options and online ordering

4.1  (38 )
Ranked #4 of 134





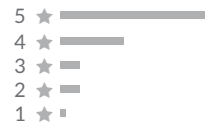
I appreciate how hard the teachers work to have a relationship with each of their students. An interest in the kids' lives shows that they care. Kids feel valued and supported when adults take an interest in their lives.

4.1  (37 )
Ranked #5 of 134





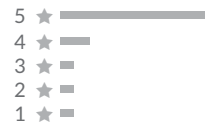
Class size is always a concern. I feel that more than 25 in a room is too much. It's very difficult for teachers to provide good academic support when they're stretched so thin!

4.1  (36 )
Ranked #6 of 134





The office staff always goes above and beyond.

4.1  (29 )
Ranked #7 of 134





Friendly Staff. Makes kids comfortable.

4.0  (39 )
Ranked #8 of 134




I appreciate how much the Teachers and staff at the school care about the students.

4.0  (39 )
Ranked #9 of 134



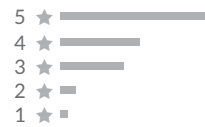
I appreciate the caring and dedicated teachers that work at Blueberry school We need teachers and support staff that genuinely care about our children and help them grow in all areas

4.0  (39 )
Ranked #10 of 134





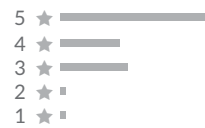
i appreciate the children learning about Canada's history So they know where they came from and how things used to be

4.0  (39 )
Ranked #11 of 134




Caring hot dog lunch / pizza lunch Amazing option for the kids and a nice treat

4.0  (38 )
Ranked #12 of 134





Love how Mrs. Bridgeman takes the time to get to know all the students by name and most of the parents. Makes students and families feel important and cared about. Easier to approach about concerns.

4.0  (38 )
Ranked #13 of 134





I appreciate if I come across a problem and email the teacher, they always contact me and help solving the problem. I feel they really care.

4.0  (37 )
Ranked #14 of 134



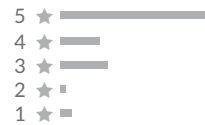
Sidewalk maintenance Sidewalks should be cleared before school starts. Chunky iced sidewalk every year is not ideal.

4.0  (37 )
Ranked #15 of 134



The teachers have all been great and my kids enjoy every day.

4.0  (37 )
Ranked #16 of 134



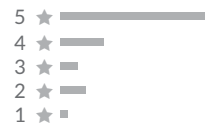
The jr teens don't get library time I think we need to cultivate their reading skills and continue to help the "readers" in the group.

4.0  (35 )
Ranked #17 of 134



Love the hotlunch program

4.0  (27 )
Ranked #18 of 134



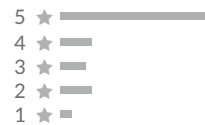
I am really impressed with the music program and teacher I think it is really good for kids to be involved in the arts

4.0  (14 )
Ranked #19 of 134



It would be nice to have one system or App that all teachers use for communication, class assignments, photos, etc. Not 4 apps for 4 teachers. I'd like to keep things organized and accessible to one space to track my child's progress, class info and enjoy the photos.

3.9  (38 )
Ranked #20 of 134





My child's two buses have students who constantly swear and bully. More needs to be done to make buses emotionally and physically safe.

3.9  (38 )
Ranked #21 of 134





I like the idea of friendship club at lunch recess. It's a great way for kids to make friends in different classes and grades. Makes the school feel like a community

3.9  (37 
Ranked #22 of 134



Open communication with the news letter It keeps me informed as a working parent

3.9  (37 
Ranked #23 of 134



I appreciate the community feeling, the openness of the staff, the organization, school events. It's important for my children to feel comfortable and safe and in and in an environment they can thrive in.

3.9  (36 
Ranked #24 of 134



I appreciate the school in the Chrstimas play they do every year. The children get to showcase there talents in many ways to us parents.

3.9  (36 
Ranked #25 of 134



I liked having an official reading room with extra TA. Many kids may not have a obvious difficult reading problem and may be on borderline not enough to get extra help but still in need .Extra resources

3.9  (35 
Ranked #26 of 134




Class sizes are getting too big and I do not like the split classes.

3.8  (38 
Ranked #27 of 134



One concern is more on parents and driving through the school parking lot and how many people do not understand what "one way" means. There's no need to rush when it comes to our children's safety.

3.8  (38 
Ranked #28 of 134





Parkland Play is a positive addition Provides variety to physical activity

3.8  (38 
Ranked #29 of 134





School yard saftey The drainage around the school is very poor, dangerous as children walk from the busses

3.8  (36 
Ranked #30 of 134





Snow and ice removal on sidewalks needs improvement. It's a real hazard to everyone. The state of the sidewalks is treacherous. I don't think they were shoveled at any point during the winter.

3.8  (31 
Ranked #31 of 134





Parking lot needs to be paved and redesigned

3.8  (29 
Ranked #32 of 134





I like the constant feedback and information through class dojo and emails. As well the interactive activities such as presentations I like to know what the kids are doing in school and seeing some of the progression through these activities.

3.8  (18 
Ranked #33 of 134



Appreciate the communication from teacher
Keeps me connected

3.7  (39 
Ranked #34 of 134




I am also appreciative of the physical education component, from organized sports and trips to the ski hill. Some recommendations. Typing class for students. I watch my children on their chrome books peck away, I believe this is creating bad habits.

3.7  (38 
Ranked #35 of 134





If the student does not do the work, they should not pass. Not sure if this is how Blueberry works, but have read a lot about teachers not being able to fail a student even if they did not do the work.

3.7  (38 
Ranked #36 of 134





Mental health is increasingly seen as important. I'd like to know what the school is doing to promote mental wellness.

Work/school-life balance and the ability to manage stress, depression, etc. will become more important as kids grow up - and prevent future issues.

3.7  (38 
Ranked #37 of 134





The extra curricular activities. Has a working parent I appreciate that the school introduces my child to so many experiences.

3.7  (38 
Ranked #38 of 134




Wish teachers sent home or posted study guides Know what to study, parents could better support students

3.7  (38 
Ranked #39 of 134



i would like to see a little more time spent on learning social interaction with their peers and life skills i believe it is important that children learn how to conduct themselves in society,with constant access to media they need to know what is real or not

3.7  (38 
Ranked #40 of 134



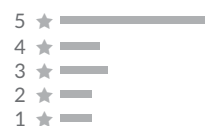
I would like to say that I appreciate all of the staff. They have made a big difference in our family's life.

3.7  (37 
Ranked #41 of 134





I really wish teachers wouldn't play movies nearly every day at lunch. They watch more movies at school than home! It's not a good habit to get into. While I get the desire to pacify kids while they're eating, give them a chance to socialize instead. They do not need even more screen time these days

3.7  (37 
Ranked #42 of 134





i'm very happy with both my daughters teachers they are very compassionate and my daughters really enjoy school its important because it would very difficult if they did not like school

3.7  (37 
Ranked #43 of 134



If there is a few kids that are disrupting the class then the whole class should not be punished for those few kids! Better discipline for kids acting up in class

3.7  (36 
Ranked #44 of 134



School Newsletter Information about upcoming events, opportunities, reminders etc.

3.7  (36 
Ranked #45 of 134




Typing is a skill required for most jobs. I would to see this implemented or at least an option. I would like to see more emphasis on the teaching of problem solving when it comes to math, visualization etc.

3.7  (36 
Ranked #46 of 134



Concerns with the lack of funding from the school division towards our school. Example proper sidewalks, kitchen, drinking water, air quality

3.7  (29 
Ranked #47 of 134



Concerned about the large class sizes I think it is harder for the kids to focus when they are in large classes due to the amount of people in the class.

3.7  (14 
Ranked #48 of 134



I do not agree with the grading system set out now. What was wrong with the old way? I find it important to have a better understanding of where our children are at. I would either like ABCD or an F to know where my child is sitting.

3.6  (39 
Ranked #49 of 134



The maintenance of the grounds, such as sidewalks is appalling and extremely dangerous.

3.6  (39 
Ranked #50 of 134

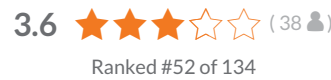


Enhanced math and reading program to challenge students My child was getting bored and this has moved my child further and challenged them

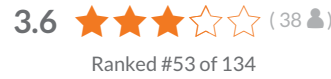
3.6  (38 
Ranked #51 of 134



It would be great if ALL students bring tests home to get signed. To keep parents informed and students accountable.



Overall interaction with teachers has been excellent through meetings, emails etc... Nice to see pics and updates throughout the year. We don't always get the all the stories from our kids so it's nice to get the teacher updates.



The training and support that educational assistants and teachers have when trying to deal with students with high level needs Teachers/support staff are expected to be experts in all areas- without the required training/support-the entire class is impacted



There needs to be more done about bullying. I am constantly hearing about the kids that are getting picked and how my kids see a lot of bullying. They also get bullied occasionally.



Walkway to school is covered in water, snow or ice





I find the teachers as a whole excellent and receptive. Areas of improvement, although the school appears clean it is very cluttered. Items piled in Corners. The sidewalks rarely are cleared and there is always ice, huge liability.



I'm always pleasantly surprised by the concepts my kids learn - and they are excited to bring what they learn home. Strong engagement in learning concepts means the teachers are doing a great job!




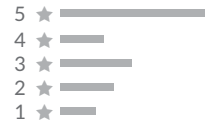
Perhaps an update/upgrade to washrooms and water/plumbing systems. Often find flooded toilets throughout the school. Unsanitary and unpleasant for all users.

3.6  (29 
Ranked #59 of 134



I know school sports tends to start with older grades, but it would be nice to see some school-let options for K-3 kids (or if there is, promote them) Wellness is awesome.

3.5  (39 
Ranked #60 of 134



I would love to see the school get a running track, I feel Blueberry Kids would benefit from it, most of the schools we visit have facilities. In order to compete with other schools it would be lovely to have facilities to train not having to use the road!

3.5  (39 
Ranked #61 of 134



Teaching in small groups, to help the little one's have more of a one on one In a big glass, the teacher wont be able to work on with the kids that may not understand so easily. Its helped my kid lots.

3.5  (39 
Ranked #62 of 134



The new signage that the school put it outside. Everytime I'll passed the school its always reminds me of whats going on or any impt. announcement. Public people, parents are being aware of the school important announcement.

3.5  (39 
Ranked #63 of 134



Class sizes are way too big without the teachers having extra help in their classrooms, especially if there a few that struggle.

3.5  (38 
Ranked #64 of 134





- I appreciate the opportunities for parents to be involved in their child/children's education. I feel that I am always well informed on what is happening at the school, as well as feel very welcomed to get involved and have a say.

3.5  (38 
Ranked #65 of 134





Class sizes are getting larger

3.5  (38 )
Ranked #66 of 134





Fundraising I would rather donate and collect donations for things that will directly benefit my child in the school, rather than outside causes like Terry Fox.

3.5  (37 )
Ranked #67 of 134





Love the longer office hours with teachers still being in the building when kids get home. Being able to call the school and talk to the teacher decreases anxiety and guessing.

3.5  (37 )
Ranked #68 of 134





Mr.Roth has been my child's teacher this year. I feel that she has improved so much under his guidance. I appreciate teachers who take the time to hel It's been very good for her confidence and self esteem

3.5  (37 )
Ranked #69 of 134





Glad the school shared teacher for following year on last report card Eases student anxiety

3.5  (36 )
Ranked #70 of 134





Having moved multiple times and experienced different schools and Division's I am truly appreciative of the different options available to all grades One being the ATB program, applying for jobs creating resumes etc. Secondly the options available to older students such as computer sciences.

3.5  (36 )
Ranked #71 of 134





I wanna get a great education for my kids so that they will be ready for high school fun by learning

3.5  (36 )
Ranked #72 of 134





There used to be a lot more discussions/presentations about bullying when my child was in elementary school. There is still bullying in Junior High, but it seems to be ignored.

3.5  (36 
Ranked #73 of 134




I appreciate our teacher (Mrs. Heemeryck) this year. My son has learning disabilities. She has many different ideas and truly cares about his success.

3.5  (35 
Ranked #74 of 134




I wish there were more resources for children who need extra help with math or with writing skills. Perhaps specialized classes. Many children struggle with the basics and the teacher having so many kids can miss this.

3.5  (35 
Ranked #75 of 134





Kids who struggle are just being pushed through classes without understanding. Properly.

3.5  (35 
Ranked #76 of 134





Mr Marcil's classroom should not be a classroom or gym teachers need to be more respectful. Kitchen needs makeover to make it a classroom. Learning in a loud environment is not ideal and Marcil's class hears it all, gym and kitche. Gym class could focus on skill and less on blasting music

3.5  (34 
Ranked #77 of 134



So much BULLYING in the school, principals and teachers don't know how to deal with it properly. It makes school hard to go to for our children! There needs to be a better bullying system.

3.5  (34 
Ranked #78 of 134



Great Communication I really enjoy the ClassDojo app that allows parents and teachers to communicate easily.

3.5  (28 
Ranked #79 of 134



extra math and reading programs for students who need extra help or are above grade level .

3.5 ★★★★★ (27 👤)
Ranked #80 of 134



Kids are not given enough time for lunch This results in the kids not eating properly and being hungry later and not able to focus

3.5 ★★★★★ (14 👤)
Ranked #81 of 134



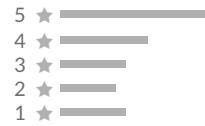
Bullying - Parents should have a booklet how to deal with their kid been bullied in school what steps to take to help their child Parents need to be able to deal with situations and need to know what steps to take

3.4 ★★★★★ (39 👤)
Ranked #82 of 134



Would really like to see Blueberry teach typing

3.4 ★★★★★ (38 👤)
Ranked #83 of 134



Buses - communication has been terrible I need to know if it is arriving before my child is waiting outside in the am as we both work

3.4 ★★★★★ (37 👤)
Ranked #84 of 134



I'm not happy though with this being an anti bullying school that my daughter has come home on many occasions upset. It is taking her confidence which is being built up and knocking her down so lots of highs and lows..

3.4 ★★★★★ (37 👤)
Ranked #85 of 134



Stop creating mindless eating by putting the students in front of a tv every lunch hour.

3.4 ★★★★★ (37 👤)
Ranked #86 of 134





I feel there is a bit of a lack of communication between parent and teacher regarding what the students are learning in class I would love to be sent home a notice when the kids begin a new unit in the core courses and a brief outline of the units they will be covering

3.4 ★★★★★ (36 👤)
Ranked #87 of 134





I think the time the kids have to eat their lunch should be extended by 5-10 minutes. It seems my son never has enough time to eat his lunch A full tummy makes it easier to concentrate and learn

3.4  (36 
Ranked #88 of 134



i believe some the sports teams need coaches who are motivated and knowledgeable i believe fitness and team building is an important part of growing up

3.4  (36 
Ranked #89 of 134





The extra learning programs available to the students are excellent.

3.4  (28 
Ranked #90 of 134



Terrible timing for the first report cards having them in December. Too late in the year for a update and December is too busy.

3.3  (39 
Ranked #91 of 134




Based on the last few events I attended in the gym, I think the school could do with a new A/V system. Get some fundraising together for this! It's hard to enjoy presentations when the audio and visuals are garbled and it detracts from the kids' hard work in putting events together.

3.3  (38 
Ranked #92 of 134



Facebook Page Communication about things going on in my child's school besides just my child. I get to see the larger community he is a part of.

3.3  (37 
Ranked #93 of 134



I appreciate the opportunity to attend events like the Remembrance Day ceremony. It's nice to have low-key opportunities to see what my kids are up to at school.

3.3  (37 
Ranked #94 of 134




Language The kids language at the bus location and school yard is awful! My child tells me its no better in school. Sad...

3.3  (36 
Ranked #95 of 134





Mandatory class newsletters/blog... informing families of what is being learned, when tests or projects due, field trips.....Could be student led.

3.3  (36 
Ranked #96 of 134



I do appreciate that some staff will help and do extra .When some don't seem to really care . Our kids need teachers who care and can maybe show work in other forms as not all kids learn the same.

3.3  (31 
Ranked #97 of 134



More feedback regarding what my child is learning. More info. from my child's elementary teacher regarding what is happening in their classroom on a more frequent basis other than at PT interviews.

3.2  (39 
Ranked #98 of 134





Less Indoor recesses or at least 15 minutes outside when it's cold, we live in Canada We should be teaching children how to enjoy the cold and life on the prairies, fresh air also increases learning and attention spans.

3.2  (38 
Ranked #99 of 134





My son had a really hard time in the weeks before the Chrismtas concert,having music instead of gym. He really missed the physical activity! I understand they need practice for the concert, but the kids need moving ,can't sit still all day long!

3.2  (38 
Ranked #100 of 134





There have been more than a few times the communication system for snow days, etc. have not come through, or came in late. Parents get up at 6 (or earlier!) to get kids ready for school. We need clear info asap to plan alternate arrangements.

3.2  (38 
Ranked #101 of 134





Snack/lunch times are too short Many times I hear my daughter say that she didn't get enough time to eat her snack/lunch. I feel this is creating bad eating habits/patterns.

3.2  (37 
Ranked #102 of 134




Children with minor learning problems seem to be overlooked I find my child slips through the cracks when it comes for investigating why she is not grasping concepts. I think my child falls into mild category.

3.2  (36 
Ranked #103 of 134





Love that there was a choir this year Great for my son and others who might not do sports

3.2  (28 
Ranked #104 of 134





My daughter told me that she was not allowed to do both Chior and Basketball, as she was not allowed to miss one practice for the other. As far as I know Chior just started??? Basketball is almost done. I don't think that is right for the teacher to say you must choose only 1 thing.

3.1  (37 
Ranked #105 of 134





Lunch Lunch time is def not long enough. Sometimes my kiddo comes home and complains she didn't get time to eat and was starving by the end of the day.

3.1  (36 
Ranked #106 of 134





Powerschool PowerSchool is frustrating and the mobile app doesn't work the same as the web.

3.1  (36 
Ranked #107 of 134





I am still waiting for my daughter to get in with the guidance councilor We have been waiting over two years this meeting to happen.

3.1  (34 
Ranked #108 of 134



I wish their was a "Parent Handbook" of sorts for parents new to the school and education system. With my 1st child in Grade 1, I feel like I'm always in the dark with programs, events, etc that are available, at what age they begin and how to join

3.1  (19 
Ranked #109 of 134



I'd like to see more clubs and/or teams for the younger grades. There doesn't seem to be anything extracurricular until about grade 5.

3.1 ★★☆☆☆ (19)
 Ranked #110 of 134



I hate the Talent Show It is great for the same kids who make it every year. But to have a kiddo that tries out and practices at home just to be told No year after year.

3.0 ★★☆☆☆ (39)
 Ranked #111 of 134



Bullying Child has been bullied and do not feel the worry was addressed.

3.0 ★★☆☆☆ (38)
 Ranked #112 of 134



We need street lights in the bus parking area. For safety during the winter months.

3.0 ★★☆☆☆ (38)
 Ranked #113 of 134



I wish the kids had more options in Music Class, such as bucket drumming, ukulele etc....

2.9 ★★☆☆☆ (38)
 Ranked #114 of 134



To reliant on computers to do the teaching, also when a teacher gets sick the subs are not teaching what is needed leaving gaps in our children's educ Computers are fine in higher grades after the child has learned to write, but when used constantly at an early age I feel it hinders their writing abi

2.9 ★★☆☆☆ (28)
 Ranked #115 of 134



Talent Show - Is there a way to showcase all types of talents and not just the singing, dancing and music? Perhaps a "mini expo" could coincide with the show so kids with other talents (ex. artists, builders, etc) could display their talents as well?

2.9 ★★☆☆☆ (17)
 Ranked #116 of 134





Transportation department People have no idea how lucky we are to have the amazing department we do.

2.8  (37 )
Ranked #117 of 134



Communication The communication between the teacher/child and parent could improve. A classroom news letter was sent in the past for elementary.

2.8  (34 )
Ranked #118 of 134





With a school that is a K to 9, sometimes the administration deals with the junior high students like they are still in elementary. They need to recognize the difference in the 2 divisions and handle the situation age appropriate.

2.8  (34 )
Ranked #119 of 134





I really don't like the talent show held every year. I feel it leaves kids feeling left out!

2.7  (37 )
Ranked #120 of 134





There are some students ignoring the scent free school rule, which is not being enforced. A lot of students/adults in the school are very sensitive to scents.

2.7  (36 )
Ranked #121 of 134





Talent Show is more of a Talent Competition

2.7  (29 )
Ranked #122 of 134





I think a wrestling program would be great! They have ones in spruce And St. Albert!

2.6  (37 )
Ranked #123 of 134



Talent show needs to be more organized. And maybe a day that the teachers can let the students in their class that didn't make it in, perform. I'm def fine with kids learning not everyone gets an award, I don't think coddling is good.

2.6  (33 )
Ranked #124 of 134



Not enough information about when parent council meetings are Sometimes I need that extra reminder that it's coming up. A facebook reminder, or an opportunity to sign up for a calendar invite would be awesome.

2.5 ★★☆☆☆ (36 👤)
Ranked #125 of 134



Wish there was a year round choir

2.5 ★★☆☆☆ (29 👤)
Ranked #126 of 134



Every classroom should have a diffuser with thieves to cut down on sickness and air quality Thieves have proven to kill bacteria schools are full of germs

2.4 ★★☆☆☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #127 of 134



Hot lunch program is not a kid friendly program and not being able to make substitutions example sauces - ordering plain has made me stop the program Making the same sandwich daily gets old, hot variety of a healthy option is / was nice

2.3 ★★☆☆☆ (38 👤)
Ranked #128 of 134



All scents! This includes essential oils I get tired of the overwhelming scent of essential oils. Some teachers even having the diffuser in their classrooms. No scents mean no scents.

2.3 ★★☆☆☆ (35 👤)
Ranked #129 of 134



FB Moms group change it to Parents, dads count too. "ads" for this and that, only on certain days. I check a notice thinking it's important and it's a buy this post

2.3 ★★☆☆☆ (35 👤)
Ranked #130 of 134





Bring em back, don't back down missing the grams. Why is it a couple parents complain, then the whole school suffers? Our kids were disappointed they were cancelled this year

2.2 ★★☆☆☆ (33 👤)
Ranked #131 of 134





Blueberry School used to be one of the best schools in the Parkland school Division, it's sad that it has gone so far down hill. It is a very uncomfortable and unhappy environment, for parents and students, I really dislike going there to pick up my child.

2.1  (37 
Ranked #132 of 134





My child has told me that when her sibling needs to go to kindergarten that I should not take them to blueberry school kindergarten. Very sad that a child is telling a parent that, I will be looking at other options

2.1  (33 
Ranked #133 of 134



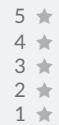
I'll be that parent. I think things like Christmas needs to be neutral. Not everyone is Christian or even religious If you want Christianity included, don't leave out the others reasons for the seasons. Many celebrate for other reasons. Don't teach my kid religion

1.6  (34 
Ranked #134 of 134





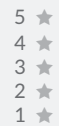
Caring staff and strong community A great village to help us raise our family

0.0  (0 
Not enough ratings to rank




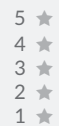
Good communication Let's me know what's going on as my kid isn't great at passing info on.

0.0  (0 
Not enough ratings to rank




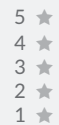
Lack of outdoor activities for jr Why can't the Jr high use the field? They still like to play games like soccer or just run around.

0.0  (0 
Not enough ratings to rank



Music program and show choir, tinkerlab, and play parkland. Allows kids new experiences and creativity.

0.0  (0 
Not enough ratings to rank



Pleased with the school this year. Both kids LOVING their teachers and getting best report cards ever. Daughters teacher is helping with some issues.

0.0  (0 )
Not enough ratings to rank



- 5 ★
- 4 ★
- 3 ★
- 2 ★
- 1 ★

Staff is generally friendly and helpful Good to have staff that are easily approachable

0.0  (0 )
Not enough ratings to rank


- 5 ★
- 4 ★
- 3 ★
- 2 ★
- 1 ★

Students are encouraged to challenge popular opinions Students are given critical tools to assess aspects of culture and society and formulate their own opinion

0.0  (0 )
Not enough ratings to rank



- 5 ★
- 4 ★
- 3 ★
- 2 ★
- 1 ★

Too many kids per classroom Hard for all children to have their educational needs met

0.0  (0 )
Not enough ratings to rank

- 5 ★
- 4 ★
- 3 ★
- 2 ★
- 1 ★

my Child wasn't using their agenda at the beginning of the school year so I didn't really know what was going on. The agenda helps to keep us organized

0.0  (0 )
Not enough ratings to rank

- 5 ★
- 4 ★
- 3 ★
- 2 ★
- 1 ★