



FIREFLY Child Care strives to provide a safe and secure environment where children are encouraged to grow socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. Our goal is to provide quality child care to children and support to their families by building positive relationships with both parents/caregivers and children. Families can expect that their children will be cared for in a nurturing, respectful and positive manner. Children are viewed as being competent, capable, curious and rich in potential.

All children play. It is their way of learning. Through play children learn to observe, inquire and problem solve. Children will have the opportunity to engage in activities that promote well-being, engagement, expression and belonging. Play materials will be uncluttered and organized in an inviting way. They will be easily accessible to all children. Staff will engage with children to implement a variety of activities based on the observed areas of interest of the children. Staff will encourage and allow children to branch out from their original interests to explore new things.

Documentation of the activities and learning opportunities are kept on a daily basis and are posted so that parents will see what their children are doing and have an opportunity to talk about the activities at home. The staff will also be able to reflect on expressed areas of interest and plan which areas of interest to explore next with the children or how to expand on their play. The activities are created to foster healthy and spontaneous, structured and unstructured play which provide for the individual differences in children. Staff will provide a variety of open-ended materials so that children can direct their own activity and use their imagination to direct their play. Toys and play equipment are rotated when staff sees a reduced level of interest so that children have fresh stimulation and can bring new ideas to their play. The environment is set up to meet the needs of all children which will allow each child to develop a sense of well-being.

Our goal is to promote health and well-being. The activities are balanced so that children play and learn outdoors and indoors. Our goal is to balance risk with safety to allow children to develop a sense of personal safety while at the same time being supported to take some risks. Children will have opportunities for active and quiet, group and solitary play according to their needs. A rest time is included in the afternoon so children may have an afternoon nap and/or a quiet time. Soothing music will be played during this time and children will be given back rubs to provide a nurturing, caring, calm environment.

Our goal is to help children learn the importance of independence, respect for others and their environment. Empathy will be modeled and encouraged. Staff will help children to develop language skills to support children in experiencing positive and responsive interactions with others. Staff will observe the children to allow them to problem solve before stepping in to guide them as required. Staff will model self-regulation and assist the children in learning to regulate themselves.

Our goal is to provide good nutrition for children by following Canada's food guide and providing a variety of different foods for the children to try. The centre provides the children with a hot, nutritionally balanced lunch and two snacks daily. Parents will inform staff of any food allergies, special diets or religious prescriptions when they enroll their child.

FIREFLY Child Care has an open door policy where parents are welcomed and encouraged to come in and share in the programming and family activities within the program. Staff will share details of the child's day with parents/caregivers. It is our goal to provide information and support to families in the community. The centre staff will communicate with parents through a variety of methods, including daily conversation, newsletters and notes, in order to suit the needs of every parent.

FIREFLY welcomes community members to participate in our programs in the form of community visitors; children will also be given opportunities to explore their community through walks and field trips. Our centre builds relationships with other service providers such as Speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, and other professionals who provide support to families and children. Staffs in centres which are located within the schools also establish relationships with the school staff and have opportunities to use the school libraries, gyms and occasionally attend school functions, such as assemblies or school plays.

Resources and workshops are available to staff to ensure that they have opportunities for professional learning and are current on early childhood issues and philosophy. Staff is also encouraged to reflect upon daily happenings, activities and strategies being used through documentation and discussion to look at their day through the pedagogy of How Does Learning Happen. This document will be used as a guide for our programs. Staff will take time during staff meetings to reflect on how well the pedagogy is incorporated in their program and will make adjustments as needed. This program statement will be reviewed every few months to determine the impact of the strategies on the children and their families and changes or adaptations will be made accordingly.