

Play and Grow Child Care Centre

Program Statement

Play and Grow Child Care Services offers a learning program that is consistent with Ministry of Education policies, pedagogy and curriculum. Some of the Ministry documents we reference in our program include the following:

- How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years
- Ontario Early Years Framework
- Ontario Early Learning Framework
- Early Learning for Every Child Today

Play and Grow Child Care Centre also uses an Emergent Curriculum approach in its Early Learning and Child Care Centre. Emergent Curriculum emphasizes active learning. Since we know that children learn best by pursuing their personal interests and goals, children make their own choices about materials and activities during program time. As they pursue their choices and plans, children explore, ask and answer questions, solve problems, and interact with peers, program staff, volunteers, students on placement and other adults.

Children are competent, capable, curious and rich in potential

Believing that every child is a miracle can transform the way we design for children's care. Play and Grow recognizes each child is a unique individual who brings his or her own abilities to the program and deserves that encouragement and space to try new things, explore new ideas and develop their own creativity. Based on developmentally appropriate practice principles, we create a well-deigned environment that allows children to participate in in-depth play opportunities. Play and Grow child Care Centre knows that play is the means for fostering a healthy personality, and it provides the opportunity for each child to discover themselves. Our centre is located in a diverse and multicultural community. With an equally diverse Play and Grow team, we believe that teaching diversity is an active process that focuses on the idea that all children have a right to learn and to reach their individual potential.

Based on children's needs and interests, we strive to create a great variety of learning experiences. Our centre offers daily activities for children to explore, learn, and develop. These include:

- Drama, music, dance and visual arts
- Physical education (gym/outdoor play)
- Language and numeracy
- Nature, science and technology (computers with Smart board, iPads)
- Construction and design
- Opportunities for school age children to work on their homework

- Rest time for children who require it based on their developmental needs

Our programs are designed to:

- Encourage children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate.
- Foster children's exploration, play and inquiry.
- Provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences.
- Offer opportunities to create authentic lasting relationships with others in the program.

Our Goals:

- a) Play and Grow Child Care Centre promotes the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of the children.
- b) Play and Grow Child Care Centre supports positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents, child care providers and staff.
- c) Play and Grow Child Care staff encourage the children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate
- d) Play and Grow Child Care Centre will plan programs that foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry
- e) Play and Grow Child Care Centre provides child-initiated and adult-supported experiences
- f) Play and Grow Child Care ECEs and ECAs plan for and create positive learning environments and experiences in which each child's learning and development will be supported
- g) ECEs and ECAs in Play and Grow incorporate indoor and outdoor play, as well as active play, rest and quiet time, into the day, and give consideration to the individual needs of the children receiving child care
- h) Play and Grow Child Care Centre fosters the engagement of and ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children
- i) Play and Grow Child Care Centre involves local community partners and allow those partners to support the children, their families and staff
- j) Play and Grow Child Care Centre supports all staff who interact with the children in relation to continuous professional learning.

- k) Play and Grow Child Care Centre staff document and review the impact of the strategies set out in clauses (a) to (j) on the children and their families.

How We Will Implement Our Goals

🏠 All staff will foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry by providing a variety of activities, and an environment rich in content, that encourages choices, and active play, supported by qualified, attentive and interactive Early Childhood Educators and Early Childhood Assistants.

🏠 All Staff will provide child-initiated and adult supported experiences. The Early Childhood Educators will observe the children and use that information to plan and create a positive learning environment that is based on the interests of the child, and supported by all the adults in the child care environment. Educators will be responsible for introducing new ideas, interests, facts, concepts, skills and experiences to widen the child's knowledge and life experiences.

🏠 All Early Childhood Educators need to be reflective practitioners who learn about children through listening, observation, documentation, and discussion with others, families in particular, to understand children as unique individuals. They will observe and listen to learn how children make meaning through their experiences in the world around them, and use this to have meaningful interactions, and engage children on a daily basis.

🏠 Each child will experience indoor, and at 30 minutes of outdoor play (weather permitting) for both Before and After School programs daily, as well as a time to engage in quiet and active times, always being mindful of each child's needs and parental direction.

🏠 Regular and ongoing communication with parents is an important component of the day. Communication may be in person, by phone, email or through written and posted communication tools. Communication needs to come from all members of the organization, the Board of Directors, the Program Supervisor and all staff.

🏠 Parents will be directed to resources outside of the centre if necessary, and community partners such as early year's services, speech therapists, support services, occupational therapists, counsellors, etc., this will be an important part of the centre to support all children and their families.

🏠 Our centre is located in school, so relationships with principals, faculty and teachers are critical.

🏠 We view the community as a valuable resource and our educators plan learning opportunities to engage the community in our programs. We seek out opportunity to share our knowledge and to learn from others in the community.

📌 The organization will provide ongoing opportunities for educators to engage in critical reflection and discussion with others about pedagogy and practice, to support continuous professional learning.

📌 All staff will build a climate of trust, honesty and respect in the workplace, working collaboratively in order to provide a safe, secure, healthy and inviting environment for all children and their families, building and maintaining healthy professional relationships that encourage growth and offering support and mentorship.

📌 Our before and after school programs for 4-5 year old and 6-12 year old are in keeping with our vision, to provide children and families with a seamless day from child care to the school day. At this particular age, children are looking for challenges and opportunities to help plan their activities all while building self-esteem and discovering their talents through social, emotional, physical and cognitive play. Our overriding goal is to support children through this discovery and provide environments that are safe, fun, hands-on and play-based.

📌 Conduct a comprehensive annual review of Play and Grow Child Care Centre Program Statement including the goals and approaches. Information gathered through the various monitoring practices will be integrated. A signed record will be kept of the review.

📌 Respond immediately to any concerns or commissions of prohibited practices observed or reported in consultation with Human Resources and appropriate authorities (as needed).

📌 All staff, students and volunteers will read the Program Statement and sign off the Policy and Procedures Sign Off binder prior to employment or prior to interacting with children, and when the statement has been modified, and on an annual basis.

📌 Program Supervisor will monitor all staff, students and volunteers for compliance with the approaches set out in the program statement and the commission of any prohibited practices through a combination of observation; reports from colleagues, parents, and community partners; and program plans and documentation.

📌 Program Supervisor will immediately report any concerns or commission of any prohibited practices to Play and Grow Child Care Centre Board of Directors. Report to stakeholders including Ministry of Education, municipal children's services, child protection agencies, and professional colleges within established guidelines.

📌 The Program Supervisor will review all sign offs by staff, students and volunteers and sign the review sheet to indicate that the process has been completed. The Program Supervisor must be confident that the staff, volunteer or student is fully aware, and understands the Program statement and its implementation.

📌 Engage in ongoing reflective practice and collaborative inquiry with the staff team.

■ Participate fully in all discussions of curriculum, Ministry of Education licensing, and quality assessments, and parent survey results with team and assist in developing a plan of action to be implemented and shared with Play and Grow Child Care Centre Program Supervisor.

■ Each classroom will maintain a binder containing observations, plans and documentation to support their understanding of the program statement. Copies of the documentation, relevant to their child, will be shared with all parents or guardians of the children in the program.

■ The Program Supervisor will meet on a regular basis with each team to establish a clear understanding of the program statement, to support staff in their delivery of the Program Statement and to aid the staff in self-reflection, to be recorded, and added to the binder on a regular basis. The Program Supervisor will view each staff as competent and able, and give them time to be heard and respected, and to reflect on their own performance and their contributions to the environment and the development of each child in their care. The Program Supervisor will use all observations, interactions and conversations to monitor all staff.

■ Staff will reflect on *How Does Learning Happen?*, by working through the reflection exercises in the document, by reviewing their observations and engaging children in meaningful activities, by maintaining communication with parents and building trusting relationships with the families, by working with their co-workers to create a safe and healthy environment and by taking the time to engage in self-reflection in a regular basis.

Program Philosophy

We believe that a child learns through play. The aim of our program is to provide an environment where every child, regardless of abilities, may have the opportunity to experience social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth. When children with special needs come into our program, we will work with parents to try and provide as many opportunities for social interactions and development of skills as possible. The staff will participate in training and work with agencies and/or individual support staff as well as Special Needs Resource staff. Our first priority, for the children in our care, is to ensure that they feel that they are part of an atmosphere that is loving, stable and safe. When a child feels secure, his/her energies can be focused towards a positive learning experience. This creates a happy and healthy child which enables them to retain newly developed and learned skills/concepts. Each child is encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities whether it is in a small group, large group or as an individual. We provide a stimulating, well-balanced program that gives children many opportunities to

experience learning. This is accomplished through a combination of group discussions, stories, songs, games, videos, educational materials, various teaching aids and special resource teachers. Our program plans focus on themes or learning units and incorporate some of the Early Learning for Every Child Today framework. The activities for the week reflect that theme / learning unit activities are set up in the classroom and children learn by doing. Program plans for the week, as well as the following week, are posted outside the classroom for parents. A monthly newsletter is distributed at the beginning of each month.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE AS FOLLOWS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND THE CONDITIONS OF ADMITTANCE AND ATTENDANCE.

Days and hours of operations:

Monday to Friday, Before School Program is from 7: 00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and from 2:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. is After-School Program.

PLEASE NOTE: Morning Snack for the Morning Program is served at 7:30 a.m. Parents, please make every effort to have your child at day care by this time. If, on any given day, this is impossible, please call and let the staff know.

The Day Care opens at 7:00 a.m. for the Before-School program. The children are released into the school-yard at 8:00 a.m. At that time, there should be a school teacher supervising the yard. School ends at 2:45 p.m. and the After-School children come down to the Centre at that time. Parents have until 6:00 p.m. to pick up their children or late pick up fees will apply (\$1.00/minute late).

If a child is not picked up by 6:00 p.m. and contact is not established by 6:45 p.m., the Children's Aid Society and Police will be notified.

When you bring your child to Play and Grow Centre, we require that you accompany him/her into the day care to his/her room. Please make sure that the staff is aware that your child is present.

We also ask that all children be escorted into and out of the daycare by someone 18 years of age or older.