

Starchild Centre



Policy and Procedures Manual 2016

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Starchild Centre

Montessori, Waldorf and Nature-based Childcare

An opportunity to place your infant or preschool child in a unique, safe, loving, nurturing and stimulating environment – a nine acre treed and pasture environment that will help children develop a love of nature and, within themselves, the fundamental habits, attitudes, skills, and ideas which are essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning.

Our Philosophy

If the world is to become more abundant, just and equitable for all, it will be the new generation of children that co-create it. However, in the meantime, it becomes the adult's task to give them our unconditional love, understanding, patience, encouragement and support. They need appropriate role models to equip them to manifest their dreams and visions for a better world.

Most recognize that children, today, are very different from those of previous generations. Yet society continues its attempt to fit them into a box that they have already outgrown – into an educational system that neither meets their needs nor prepares them to cope with living in this rapidly changing world.

We feel that, by combining the cognitive focus of the Montessori approach to learning with the creative, intuitive, project-centered Waldorf method, we are able to provide a more holistic learning synthesis for children of all ethnic backgrounds and learning styles. For more information regarding the Centre and its methods, see

www.starchildcentre.ca

Mission

The Starchild Centre is dedicated to providing the best possible environment for supporting and fostering the emotional, mental, physical and spiritual development for these new age children.

The Centre is committed to the development of the whole child by employing an integrated approach to learning and living through weaving together the Montessori and Waldorf philosophies and use of their pedagogic materials.

The specific goals for the children attending our Daycare are:

- To develop and foster an abiding curiosity.
- To develop habits of initiative and persistence.
- To foster inner discipline and a sense of order.
- To develop sensory-motor skills in order to sharpen the ability to discriminate and judge their surroundings.
- To develop socially acceptable behavior.
- To acquire the basic skills and habits necessary for a lifetime of learning.
- To help develop each child's high self esteem, self-expectations and confidence.
- To foster their innate love of nature and appreciation of all living forms.

Today's Children

There is much material on the internet about the new children that have been incarnating during the past several years. Their DNA is different. The neurological wiring in their bodies is different. They see more, feel more and innately know more than their elders. They know their mission and will not be deterred from their path. They will definitely change what they cannot accept. These newcomers are generally grouped into two categories, the Indigo and the Crystal children.

The Indigos were the first to arrive. They have a warrior spirit, and their collective purpose is to break down the dysfunctional old systems that no longer serve us and to dismantle and remove old and limiting ways of thinking. They are here to quash government, educational, and legal and other systems that lack integrity.

The Crystal Children have come to begin the process of renewal and rebuilding. The Primary Mission of a Crystal Child is to teach the ways of Multi-Dimensional Living – in harmony, peace and love. They have come to teach us how to live empowered lives. “They have come to help us to reconnect with the Divine Feminine energies. They represent the future path of the Human Race.”

Many of these children born now and into the future will confound and exasperate their elders for they come here at this time with very specific missions. They are serving as catalysts for the evolution of humankind. It is society's role to support them in their endeavors to create a higher level of living. It is our duty to encourage and support them in their efforts to promote social justice, environmental preservation, global awareness, and peace.

Staff

Petra Angpao Durrance

Starchild Centre directress, Petra is a graduate nurse, Montessori teacher with ECE and ITE certification from BC educational institutions. She also has some Waldorf training. She has worked with infants, toddlers and children since the age of 12 when she took care of the babies in the orphanage where she grew up in the northern Philippines. As co-founder of the **International Association for Transformation – Philippines (IAT)** (see: www.iatcan.org), she has overseen the establishment of Montessori-based daycares in several remote mountain villages in the Philippines, and has held numerous mother's classes and seminars for teachers in that country.

Gloria Dyer

Hails from Ontario, and first began working with emotionally disturbed children in the early 70's, gaining experience with children with developmental and speech delays and behavioral problems. For the past 34 years she has served in various capacities in preschools and nursery schools, from program planning and arranging field trips to supervising college and high school co-op students. Gloria is managing the programs at Starchild and along with her experience, knowledge and skills, brings music, dance cooking and puppetry to the children at the Centre.

Michele Eckstrand

Michele began her ECE career 25 years ago, and received her Infant/Toddler Certificate 10 years ago. She continues to love growing with the littlest ones in care, using music, stories, puppets, art and the outdoors. She has sat on Board of Directors for Community Centers, operated her own licensed daycare, and assisted with projects for families, children and teens.

Stephanie Henriksen

Stephanie Henriksen has always had a love for helping children to learn and grow. In 2007 she began working in a daycare center with children ages 2½ -5 years old. In 2010 she completed the ECE program at Camosun College. Steph continued to work for the same center until going on maternity leave in December of 2012. She enjoyed spending the year at home with her new son. In 2014 she married the love of her life and joined the staff at Starchild. Stephanie believes that all children learn through play. That play is the basis for learning social skills, personal interests, developing personalities, imagination, and creativity. Play is a way to try new things, to try new roles, to find your likes and dislikes, to bring your imagination to life, a way to learn how to make friends, and so much more.

Carley Stace-Smith

Carley will be working with the Infants and Toddlers program until mid-April, of this year as a practicum student from Vancouver Island University. Carly enjoys spending time in nature and strives to instill, in children, a love for the outdoors in. She loves to travel and learn about different cultures, places, and people. She has lived and volunteered across Canada as well as in Nicaragua and Honduras. In Honduras she helped run a summer day camp, with volunteers from around the world.

Carmen Rae

Carmen has always had a passion for working with young children and is an ECE with specialties in Infant and Toddler Care. She has also worked as a nanny and as a birth support person. She strongly believes that the relationship between the child and educator needs to be one based on trust, respect and a mutual understanding of teamwork. She establishes loving, learning environments that are creative and stimulating for young children to explore, grow, develop positive self identity and thrive.

Chelsea Trousdell

Chelsea recently moved back to Vancouver Island from Vancouver. She grew up in Comox, so is excited to be returning to her roots and to be closer to family. Chelsea started her career in Aboriginal Early Childhood Education in 2013 after graduating from Emily Carr University and has Montessori training and experience. She strives to combine her love of creative learning with her passion for nature and enthusiasm for Early Childhood Education. Chelsea feels strongly about the importance of getting children outdoors and is thrilled about exploring the farm and surrounding landscape with the children at Starchild. Every day is an adventure here!

David Durrance

Is a retired secondary school teacher, Montessori certified and CEO of the [International Association for Transformation \(IAT\)](http://www.iatcan.org), a Victoria-based charitable organization he founded 36 years ago. (see: www.iatcan.org). He has been involved in youth education and leadership training, agricultural, reforestation and community development programs for more than 40 years. David's focus is upon maintaining the orchard, and grounds of the 9 acre hobby farm on which the daycare is located as well as assisting the other staff members with the children's gardening, exposure to the animals, nature walks and other outside projects and activities.

Our Program

Our regular program operates Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Extended hours or care are provided from 7:30 to 8:30 am and 4:30 to 5:00 pm for parents needing this service.

The program year runs from September through to the following June in any given year. A separate summer program is offered in July and August. A weekend child care service can also be provided depending upon parental need. A minimum of 6 children per session would be required.

The Centre offers infant care and toddler educare. A program for preschoolers is dependent upon licensing. Parents are invited to share their knowledge about their children and to visit during the day. Our programs are open-ended and flexible but within a routine framework. Each child is free to make choices, as long as he/she remains within the guidelines of consideration for others.

Infant program: Birth to 18 months

This program provides gentle nurturing care to the infants of working mothers. Here, the caregiver will strive to be in tune with each infant's unique cues and needs and will work in partnership with the family to ensure consistent care in order to create a trusting reciprocal relationship.

Toddler program: 18 months to 3 years

Our Toddler program offers very young children unique years of self-development in a safe, tender atmosphere of special understanding, respect and support. Through art, music and outdoor activities, we strive to present our young students with a world of beauty that will nurture their sense of ease, joy, and peace.

Preschool program: 3 to 5 years

Our preschool activities involve the use of both Montessori and Waldorf pedagogical materials and methods, in a safe and supporting setting, with increased age-appropriate variety, depth, and complexity. Young children benefit from a strong sense of routine and predictability, and we work with a very regular rhythm for our daily and weekly activities. Music and verses accompanied by movement, stories, circle time, practical activities of cooking and baking, gardening, tree planting, sewing, and artistic activities of painting, modeling and drawing, all contribute to the balanced, joyful, and healthy development of young children.

The Toddler and Preschool programs consist of components that support our overall philosophy and are intended to provide for the holistic development of the 18 months to 5 years old children. (*See page 9 for daily routine*)

During all statutory holidays, regular provincial government holidays and from the Monday prior to Christmas to the Friday following January 1st in accordance with the Cowichan School district calendar.

The Centre must be notified if a child is going to be absent and of the reason for the absence if health related. (*see Health Policy*).

Enrolment and Withdrawals

Enrolment begins with a visit to inspect the facility and to meet Petra, the Directress. You will be provided with an information and application package.

Trial Period

We have a one-month trial period before final enrollment. During this time the child is observed and assessed to ensure that s/he is able to adjust to the new environment and make new friends. For the well being of the child -- in the event that s/he is not adjusting to the new environment, Starchild Centre retains the right to terminate the enrollment. Parents also have the right to terminate enrollment at Starchild Centre during this trial period.

The one month trial enrolment is accomplished by completing the application and providing a non-refundable registration fee of \$100 along with a cheque for the first (Trial) month's fees.

The non-refundable registration fee applied enables us to provide a small honorarium (transportation costs) for resource persons coming from a distance to share their skills with your child, as well as for tools, seeds, seedlings and materials for the children's individual garden plots.

Upon being informed (after initial trial month) that your child's enrolment is confirmed, we require, within five business days, a cheque for the following month's fees along with post-dated cheques for the contracted daycare period.

Gradual Entry

At starchild Centre we suggest a gradual entry to the daycare. This means that your child will only spend a few hours the first day at the daycare and I,f necessary, will gradually increase the number of hours over several days according to the stage of development and comfort level. A parent must accompany his/her child or make alternate arrangements with the Directress.

Hours of Operation and Fees

Regular hours 8:30 am to 4:30 pm - Monday through Friday

Children under 3 year – full time – \$1,050 per month

Children 3 and over – full time – \$850 per month

(Obtain separate complete schedule from the facility for fees for part time care).

Extended hours: 7:30 am to 8:30 am. and from 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

Rate for extended care is \$5.00 per half hour or portion thereof.

Regarding Extended Care:

Our regular program runs from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. However, to accommodate the needs of some parents, extended care is available from 7:30 to 8:30 am and from 4:30 to 5:00 pm.

A fee of \$5.00 per half hour or portion thereof is required for any care beyond 8 hours.

For example: if a child is brought to the Centre at 7:30 am, and picked up 8 hours later (at 3:30 pm) there is no extra cost. However, for any care for that child beyond 3:30 extended care fees apply. On the other hand, a child brought in at 8:30 or later must be picked up on or before 4:30 because extended care fees apply for any pick up after 4:30 pm. If you need to discuss something about your child, please make an appointment for a brief discussion at 4:00 or earlier because staff members have appointments and commitments in the afternoons and often need to leave immediately after 4:30 pm.

Payment:

Fees are to be paid promptly on the first day of each month and are charged on a flat monthly rate. Parents are expected to provide a series of post-dated cheques when child is enrolled after the first trial month.

Centre Closures:

In the event of extreme weather (snow, freezing rain) it is possible that the Centre may close. The decision is based on a number of factors but primarily upon the closure of Duncan District public schools. Every effort will be made to contact all families by telephone or email to advise of closure. ***Fees will not be refunded in the event of weather closures.***

Withdrawal and Refund Policy:

Your child is booked by the month. If he or she misses days, no deductions will be made and no refunds due to unforeseen circumstances, (such as weather conditions or electrical outages), Christmas, Easter and statutory holidays, sick days or mid-month withdrawals throughout the year. Please understand that operation costs remain the same for us, and staff must be paid, whether your child attends that day or not

Withdrawal of a child from the program requires written notice a minimum of **one full calendar month** prior to withdrawal. The Centre must receive notice no later than the last day of the month prior to the month of leaving. (e.g. leaving April 30 – notice in by March 31st, or if leaving May 15th, notice also in by March 31st). Failure to give proper notice may result in the charge of additional fees.

All advanced payment or post-dated cheques falling beyond the properly notified withdrawal date **will be refunded** in full (i.e. cheques returned or destroyed).

A **\$25.00 fee** will apply to all **NSF cheques**, which must be replaced promptly. Failure to comply will result in your child being removed from the program. Following a second NSF cheque, Starchild Centre will require cash, certified cheques or money orders for the remaining months of the school year.

Receipts will be provided at year's end for income tax purposes. We ask that you keep them in a safe place as duplicates will not be provided.

Government assistance is available to those that are eligible.

Part Time Care for non-enrolled children may be provided (if space is available)

Based on the number of hours of care. We strive to be very flexible so we can accommodate a variety of schedules for parents. \$10.00 per hour

Daily Schedule:

Morning

- 7:30 Centre opens for arrival of extended care children.** Free play according to child's individual interests.
- 8:30 Arrival and greeting** of Regular Program children.
- 8:45 Teacher-directed table activities.** Teacher presentation of Montessori or Waldorf pedagogical materials to children, cooking, science or math activities. Children use materials according to individual choice.
- 9:45 Clean up** - Put activities away, hand washing, diapering or toileting as needed.
- 10:00 Snack time** - Caregiver prepares (parent provided) snacks for the children and joins children at table to model healthy eating habits and table manners. This is a time for language development and socializing.
- 10.30 Outside play** - Children reminded to use the toilet before going out. Gross motor development and exercise with individual gardening, visiting the animals, nature walks within the 9 acre property, climbing, sand and water play and other outdoor activities.
- 12:00 Children come in for lunch** (provided by parents and prepared by staff) Wash hands, joined at tables by teacher. Children are responsible for putting leftovers in the garbage and clean up of their eating area.

Afternoon

- 12:00 Lunch** – followed by hand and face washing, brushing teeth
- 12:30 Morning half-day children depart** with parent or guardian. Afternoon Half-day children arrive
- 12:45 Diapering and toilet time** for full day children before nap.
- 1:00 Nap Time** - children needing to sleep retire to their own sleeping mat in darkened room with soft music. Children's individual rhythm is respected and, gradually, as children wake on their own, they join their peers in the main playroom. Those children not sleeping have quiet time with books, teacher read stories.
- 2:15 Sleeping children wake** and prepare for outside play.
- 2:30 Outside Play** - on nice days; indoor activities on bad weather days.
- 3:15 Wash up and prepare for afternoon snack.** Children put leftovers in garbage and dishes in the tub.
- 3:45 Teacher-directed table activities.** Teacher presentation of Montessori or Waldorf pedagogical materials to children, cooking, science or math activities. Children use materials and self-selected activities according to individual choice. Continuation of self-selected activities or organic gardening, or other outside activities.
- 4:30 Departure of regular program children.**
- 5:00 Parent pick up** of extended care children. **Centre closes.**

The above schedule is flexible based upon children's interests and needs.

Calendar

The days we are open to provide childcare service are based on the Cowichan Valley School District schedule. We are closed for statutory holidays and over Christmas and for one week only at Easter but remain open during public school's teacher professional development days. Our childcare program does operate during the months of July and August. (*Please see 'Calendar' on our website: starchildcentre.ca*). Any changes in the dates will be posted on the parent's information bulletin in the front entrance.

Termination of Client Services

Starchild Centre is committed to providing a caring and supportive environment for all children and families. However, termination of services may be required if:

- Fees for services are not paid in accordance with the parent Agreement and suitable arrangements cannot be agreed upon.
- A family does not abide by expectations outlined in the Parent agreement and successful resolution of the differences is not achieved.
- The parents cannot reach a custody agreement.
- A family is physically or mentally harassing/abusive towards educators, other parents or a child at the daycare.
- A child's behavior is severely disruptive and/or physically threatening to the other children and/or educators.
- A child's needs require, on a continuing basis, an inordinate amount of educator time and attention when compared to the time and attention required to attend the needs of the other children.

Prior to termination the Directress will meet with the family to seek a solution to the problem. If a reasonable solution cannot be found or if the solution, once tried, proves to be unsuccessful, client services will be terminated.

Parent Expectations

Form updates

It is the enrolling parent's responsibility to update all information on the registration forms so that all information is always current and accurate. In an emergency, it slows down quick action if we cannot locate the parent, doctor or emergency back up person.

Absences

Parents are expected to notify the Centre in advance, as much as possible, if their child is going to be away. Please use the communication book, available in the centre.

Arrival

When you arrive at the Centre, please help your child get settled before you leave. Parents are asked to note relevant information in the DAY BOOK. Before leaving, please make sure that your child knows you are going and a staff member is aware that your child has arrived. **Please remember to sign your child in and out.** Children may only be dropped off by authorized responsible adults.

Pick Up

Authorized pick up persons are asked to pick up the child by 4:30 pm unless extended hours have been arranged. Children will only be released to an authorized person listed on the registration form. In case of an emergency or an unforeseen circumstance, written authorization must be provided before your child will be released to anyone not listed on the registration form. When picking up your child please make sure that we are aware that your child is leaving. Children may only be picked up by a responsible adult. Children must be picked up on time. **The facility closes at 5:00 sharp.**

If the parent, designated to pick up a child is late and has not called prior to explain the delay, the emergency contact will be called for pick up. If these persons cannot be reached and the delay is very long, the Ministry of Children and Families will be called.

Habitual tardiness will result in your child being removed from the registry.

Conflict resolution

We encourage you to discuss any questions or concerns about our program or our procedures with the Directress. If a conflict arises, the goal is to resolve differences of opinion and find solutions that everyone can accept. We are committed to providing a caring and supportive environment for our children and families. If a problem continues, a meeting can be arranged to amicably settle the matter.

Smoking

Starchild Centre is a smoke free environment. Smoking is prohibited inside the Centre, yard or within 100 meters of any entrance.

Parking

Kindly park in the front area to the left of the building, leaving the driveway clear for parent's vehicles arriving and leaving.

Food and Drinks

Parents are responsible for providing nutritious snacks and lunches in accordance with the Canada Food Guide and the child's dietary needs. Your child will need a morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack. There is a refrigerator for parent use in which to place your child's individually contained food.

We encourage healthy eating habits at our daycare – such foods as fruit, vegetable soup/sandwiches, cheese, yogurt, muffins, etc. An emergency supply of food is available to supplement children if necessary. We are aware of health hazards of microwave usage so all food for your child will be heated in an electric oven.

Please do not allow your child to bring chewing gum, candy or junk food to the Centre.

Water bottles

Because of the health hazard caused by Bisphenol A being present in plastic products, in order to provide a safer, healthier environment for your children Starchild Centre requests that parents send a metal PBA-free water bottle for their child's daily use. This should be taken home at the end of each day. We will be able to refill your child's bottle throughout the day using filtered water. *(Bisphenol A is a toxic chemical compound found in some hard, clear, lightweight plastics and resins. It's used in the production of various types of food and drink containers, compact discs, electronics and automobile parts).*

Clothing and supplies

Parents are expected to provide cloths, necessary sleeping supplies, sunscreen, diapers, helmets, and seasonally appropriate indoor/outdoor attire. Baby wipes will be supplied by the Centre unless parents prefer another appropriate alternative.

Suggested materials to bring for your child:

- Ice pack inside lunch box
- Stainless steel water bottle
- Child size toothbrush, and toothpaste
- Slippers or indoor shoes
- Small stuffed toy (if needed for napping)
- Small blanket (for napping)
- Change of clothes
- Weather appropriate outdoor clothing

- Light coat, rain boots/outside shoes
- Muddy Buddies
- Sun hat
- For Winter dress – warm hooded coat, hat, scarf, gloves, winter boots
- ***If your child is in diapers or pull ups, please provide a complete supply.***

Please ensure that your child has at least two changes of clothing (i.e., pants, shirts, underwear, socks). ***Please put your child's named on each item.***

Other than the stuffed toy (for napping) please do not let your child bring toys to the daycare. Toys from home create sharing difficulties, concern in case of loss or breakage and general disruption.

Nap Time

Quiet time is between 1:00 and 2:15 every day. Some infants may nap more often, as needed. Children who nap will be provided with their own mats and sheets with their names on them. The children are encouraged to bring their own special blankets, sheets and one stuffed animal from home. ***Please label these items.***

We do not force children to sleep. We feel that if a child needs to sleep, he/she will fall asleep naturally. Children who do not nap will have opportunities to play quietly with friends, do art activities, and play outside (*weather permitting*).

Field Trips

For the present time, field trips will be limited to nature walks in the 9 acre property. We will bring in entertainers, educators and other resource guests on a regular basis.

Bridging Multiculturalism

- Parents/Grandparents, if interested, may be invited to tell stories or share their expertise in crafts, or baking or other talents with the children.
- Resource persons from other ethnic cultures may share their music, dance, food and language with the children
- Parents and children may have opportunities to attend multicultural events.

Parent visits

Parents are always welcome. However, although we maintain an open door policy, kindly make arrangements with the Directress in order to make your visits compatible with the program. We further suggest that you wait until your child has adjusted to the Centre's routine before visiting as you may find that he or she will have a completely natural wish to have you stay all the time. **Tel: 250-929-3240 or 250-733-2535.**

Summary of Parent Expectations

- Inform staff if there are any changes in address, phone number, emergency contacts, doctor or person authorized to pick up your child.
- Notify us if your child is going to be absent.
- Sign the child's daily registry on arrival and departure.
- Inform staff if a child arrives with bruises or any other unusual marks in order to avoid unnecessary suspicion.
- Ensure that you pick up your child on time.

Program Policies

General

In the playroom areas and outdoors, the Directress and staff have overall responsibility for the program, teaching methods, guidance, health and safety measures.

Montessori and Waldorf methods and pedagogical materials form the basis of the Starchild Centre's operation and the children's unique discovery and learning experience.

Parents, elders, practicum students, observing students and volunteers may be involved in a child's program from time to time. The Directress has the responsibility for managing adult participation in the children's programs. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the Centre.

Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the Directress at any time to discuss their child's development and ways of contributing to his/her progress. This would include any event or change of routine at home which might affect the child's behavior.

Emergency Procedures

Fire and Earthquake drills will occur on a regular basis to promote a learned response with preschool children. An emergency exit plan is posted on the wall on the bulletin board. In the event of a fire, children will immediately be taken outside using the nearest safe route of exit. Our meeting place will be in the orchard. Staff will ensure that all children, present that day, are accounted for. In case of a real fire, 911 would be called at the time of alarm.

If the building is unsafe to reenter, we will see that the children remain in a safe place and the childcare worker in charge will make every attempt to reach parents to arrange for pickup. If communications are down, in the case of a blizzard or general power outage, please come to the daycare as soon as possible to pick up your child.

In the event of an earthquake, we will position children in the bathroom area where there are strong supporting beams and walls. Evacuation from the building to the orchard will occur after the shaking stops.

In case of a power outage, we have enough emergency lighting and water to flush toilets for about two hours. If the outage occurs before opening time in the morning, the Centre will not be able to operate that day. Please call to make sure we are in service if you have experienced or have heard of power outages in the area overnight.

We require you, as a parent, to provide an emergency preparedness (comfort kit) consisting of:

- A full change of clothes
- Emergency blanket
- Travel toothbrush and travel sized toothpaste
- Two Granola bars
- Small bottled water (no more than 500 ml)
- Photograph of child with family – list names on back with emergency phone number
- Comfort note (love you, be with you soon, etc.)
- Comfort toy (very small stuffy)

These items may be placed in a ziploc bag with your child's name on it to be stored at the Centre.

Injury/Illness

In the event of a child being injured, first aid will be applied within the level of competence of staff. If necessary an ambulance will be called. The parent(s) of a seriously injured child will be informed as soon as possible.

In the event of a child becoming ill, the parent will be called to pick up the child. We do not ask that a child be taken home when he/she has a cold, but for more serious, contagious illnesses, we do require it. Should the child be seriously ill, e.g. repeated vomiting, and the parent(s) unavailable, we will call an ambulance and inform the parent(s) as soon as possible.

Any costs incurred as a result of attending to a child's injury or illness, e.g. ambulance fees, will be the responsibility of the parent(s).

Guidance and Discipline

Since we value and respect the individuality of each child, our goal is to assist children in developing self-confidence, self-control, inner discipline, and sensitivity to others. Positive guidance is based on realistic expectations of a child's needs and abilities.

Following are some of the guidance strategies uses:

- Redirection
- Observation and anticipation of children's play.
- Creating a positive, stimulating, environment that reflects the level of the children.
- Providing clear limits through consistent messages about expectations and safe, appropriate behavior.
- Modeling positive behavior and demonstrating respect, understanding and caring for other people and things.
- Teaching children appropriate expression of their feelings.
- Teaching children problem-solving and conflict resolution skills.
- Routine will be kept as much as possible to help children become aware of what is expected of them.

If a child misbehaves or refuses to follow the guidelines of the Centre he/she will be taken to sit quietly beside a caregiver until his or her composure is regained enough to rejoin the rest. If a child is presenting a risk to other children by hitting, kicking, biting, etc. he or she will be removed by a caregiver to protect all involved and to calm the child. A quiet explanation of why the behavior cannot be tolerated will be given the child once settled enough to listen. All efforts will be made to assist a child whose behavior is being affected by ill health, fatigue or other problems beyond his or her control. However, in rare instances when a child becomes such a difficulty that his or her actions compromise the safety of others on a regular basis or interfere with the smooth operation of the facility, the child will be taken off the registry. The parents will be given a short time, no more than two weeks, to find another placement. In extreme cases where the child represents a real danger to himself or others, removal will be immediate and final.

Families will be consulted if a child has persistent behavioral problems in the Centre that require a systematic approach. Extra support can be accessed for children with emotional and behavioral challenges if families and/or staff determine a need for it.

Washroom

Children are encouraged to learn how to wipe themselves and to change their own clothes. Parents can help in this area by sending their children in loose-fitting clothes. This helps the child to be more independent and self-reliant.

Staff will assist children with personal hygiene and toilet learning if it's required or when requested by the child. It may become necessary to aid with wiping, pulling up or down of clothing, assisting with closures. Your child may have an accident, become ill, or simply become very dirty while playing and need a more complete wash. We have a shower on the premises to aid us in cleaning up extreme cases. Clothing soiled with feces will be rinsed, double bagged and sent home for laundering. Clean ones will need to be brought in the next day. Remember to put your child's name on these.

Note: If your child has a certain bathroom routine, please let us know. Children of all ages are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet, before and after eating and after playing outside.

Personal Conduct

At no time will your child be touched in a way that makes him or her uncomfortable. Unwanted physical touching will not be tolerated and any staff doing so will be immediately dismissed and licensing notified.

We do encourage appropriate demonstrations of affection. Affection is appropriate when:

- a child is hurt, physically and/or emotionally
- a child asks for a hug
- in the sleep room a child asks for a backrub
- a child wakes up from sleep time
- a child and staff are sharing positive emotions
- a child is arriving or departing from the daycare

When praising, sharing a happy moment, exchanging gifts, etc. we will show appreciation by hugging, patting on the head or back, or kissing on the cheek. Children need the freedom to express themselves in all ways and healthy expression of caring is important. Children are encouraged to show affection. However, at no time will a child be forced to show or to accept these expressions if they are unwanted.

If staff suspects that a child is being abused in any way – physically, emotionally, sexually – as a result of visual or verbal clues or disclosure by the child, the staff will report their concerns to the appropriate Ministry.

Health

There are many factors involved in ensuring a child's optimum growth and development; good health is particularly important. While children are ill the active environment of a daycare is not the place for them. They require a more relaxed atmosphere and more individual attention than a daycare can provide. Therefore it may be wise for parents to consider what your options might be under such circumstances as when your child is sick.

As recommended by the Capital Health Regional District for group care facilities

A child is too ill to attend daycare if the child:

- has an acute cold with a fever, runny nose, runny eyes, green mucus discharge, persistent coughing, or sore throat.
- has difficulty breathing or is wheezing
- complains of unexpected or undiagnosed pain
- has a fever of 100F or 38.3C or higher

- has an ongoing sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- has infected skin or eyes of an undiagnosed rash
- has a headache and/or a stiff neck
- has diarrhea or a loose stool (2 loose stools in succession within 3 hours)
- is vomiting
- is severely itching their body or scalp
- has head lice (use over-the-counter shampoo (Nix, Kwellada, etc.)
- has any communicable disease or symptoms of one

Should your child become ill while at the daycare, you will be notified immediately and are expected to arrange for the child to be picked up promptly. Your child should be kept at home until symptoms subside. If the parent(s) cannot be located, staff will contact the Alternate Person listed on the Enrollment Form.

Communicable Disease Notification

Parents are required to notify the Centre of any communicable disease that their child is exposed to or contracts within 24 hours. We will post a notice that a child has been exposed to a disease or contracted a communicable disease in an effort to minimize its spread.

Re-entry following illness

The child may return to the program after an illness if the following conditions are met:

- the child has received an antibiotic for 24 hours and there are no related symptoms
- the child is no longer contagious
- the child is symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
- The parent notifies and assures the directress that the child's health is back to normal.

Administration of Medication

- All medications must be prescribed by a medical practitioner or provided by the parent for that child. The Centre will ensure that the medication is given to the child in the amount and at the time specified in writing by the parent. The child's parent or guardian must sign the instructions.
- Parents can come to the daycare and administer medications to their child in the presence of a regular staff member. (The event will be recorded in the communications book).
- Staff shall not administer over the counter medication unless a physician prescribes it.
- Medication must be in the same bottle as issued by the pharmacist. When having a prescription filled, ask the pharmacist to put it into two smaller containers (one for home, one for daycare).
- All children's medication must be kept in a locked container. For each medication dispensed, the parent/guardian Must Record the Following information on the form posted on the fridge.
 - The date and time medication is to be administered
 - The amount of medication to be given
 - Why the medication is to be given
 - The parent/guardian signature
 - Any unusual effects
 - The staff member who administers the medication will sign the time when the medication was given, and will also give their signature

If the form is not signed and appropriately documented, the staff will not administer any medication. The staff needs to be informed about administering medication to a child firstly by verbal communication, and secondly by the Medication Record Form on the fridge in the kitchen.