

CATEGORY: Child Care and Early Years Act 2014

DATE: November 2016

SUBJECT: Program Statement

REVIEWED: February 2023

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Centennial Infant and Child Centre (CICC) believes all children are competent, capable, curious and rich in potential.

CICC used the Ministry of Education's, *How Does Learning Happen?* document as a guide in developing our Program Statement.

CICC's Specialized Preschool program will:

A) *Promote the health, safety, nutrition and wellbeing of the children;*

Goal: The Centre will promote children's overall health and well-being on a daily basis.

Centre's Approach: Staff, volunteers and students will interact with the children in ways that encourage positive self-esteem, independence and sense of security and happiness. Centre ensures children receive healthy snacks that take into account health issues and respect family requests/preferences. All snacks will meet recommendations set out in the Health Canada document, "Canada's Food Guide" and reviewed annually by a registered dietician. Staff will perform daily observations of children at drop off times and throughout the program in order to detect possible symptoms of ill health.

B) *Support positive and responsive interactions amongst the children, parents, students, volunteers and staff;*

Goal: Promote positive, respectful and meaningful interactions amongst all those involved in the preschool.

Centre's Approach: Staff, volunteers and student's interactions will be respectful & sensitive to family culture, values, language, composition & developmental abilities. Interactions will be modelled to reflect the value we place on inclusion. The centre will aim to foster each child's self-esteem, curiosity, exploration, play, individual strengths and areas of need.

C) *Encourage the children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate;*

Goal: Support each child in the development of their communication and to develop strategies for self-control.

Centre's Approach: Staff will work collaboratively to ensure each child has a communication program that is appropriate for them which encourages both receptive and expressive language skills. Staff, volunteers and students will support children to develop healthy regulatory skills and social skills in a safe, positive and supportive setting.

D) *Foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry;*

Goal: Staff will ensure all children are provided the tools and adaptations to explore, play and learn throughout all aspects of the preschool program.

Centre's Approach: Through group and individual program plans all children will be encouraged to explore, play and ask questions. Children will be provided an environment that supports them to work on all areas of their development and classroom skills that will encourage them to meet their full developmental potential and prepare them to enter the school system.

E) *Provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences;*

Goal: The centre will provide children with the experiences that are reflective of both children and adult's interests and choices.

Centre's Approach: Through parent interview, observation and assessments, staff will develop a program that reflects the interests and developmental needs of the individual children. Staff will document daily observations of each child and plan for their play based learning opportunities which support each child's individual developmental goals and areas of interest. Observations and planning will be continuous and available to all families. Staff will expand the children's interests by adding materials, asking questions and scaffolding the children's learning by providing new challenges and ideas.

F) *Plan for and create positive learning environments and experiences in which each child's learning and development will be supported;*

Goal: The centre will provide an environment in which learning is rewarding and enjoyable and where each child's individual needs are met and they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Centre's Approach: Staff will develop a program that fosters the individual developmental goals established for each child as well as the goals developed for their preschool grouping. Both programming goals for the individual child as well as their group will reflect the interests of the children as well as learning objectives established for them by the preschool staff. Programming will reflect goals established through observation, assessment and planning to ensure full inclusion and success for each child.

G) *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.*

Goal: Classroom schedules are developed to encourage play opportunities that incorporate active and quiet times throughout the daily program. Group and Individual Program Plans will

promote the development of fine and gross motor skills, cognition, social and communication development for all children.

Centre's Approach: Children will be provided with learning opportunities that encourage them to explore different developmental domains and will be made available to them throughout the daily program schedule.

Programming will support each child's development, self-care skills and growing independence in the preschool setting. Daily group schedules allow for children to develop comfort and confidence in both small and large group settings. Particular emphasis will be on successful program transitions, and other classroom skills that will promote kindergarten readiness and a positive entry into the school system.

H) *Foster the engagement of ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children;*

Goal: Ongoing and open communication with families is a priority of the centre.

Centre's Approach: Family involvement is welcomed as we believe that strong partnerships with families strengthens the children's opportunities for learning and development. This will be achieved through a team meeting prior to each child starting school, our "open door policy" welcoming parents to visit and observe their children during preschool hours, daily communication books, regular communication with staff via, email, telephone and in person conversations, monthly newsletters, parent workshops and annual team meetings to discuss each child's progress.

I) *Involve local community partners and allow those partners to support the children, their families and program staff;*

Goal: Promote the involvement of the local agencies and community organizations to further develop and support the learning of children, families and staff at the centre.

Centre's Approach: CICC's preschool will work collaboratively with local agencies to support the needs of the children, families and staff. Specialists will be encouraged to visit and work with staff and parents to support them in caring for the children in the preschool program. Consultation for individual as well as groups of children are encouraged. Information workshops will be offered to families and staff to support the growth and development of children.

J) *Support staff, home child care providers and others who interact with the children at a child care centre or home child care premises in relation to continuous professional learning.*

Goal: The Centre will provide and encourage professional development opportunities to all the staff, volunteers and students.

Centre's Approach: Professional development opportunities will be offered to the staff on an ongoing basis. Staff will be given opportunities to participate in individual as well as group workshops. Staff are required to attend a minimum of one professional development per school year. Volunteers and students are offered various training opportunities and individual support by staff on an on-going bases.

K) *Document and review the impact of strategies set out in clauses (a) to (j) on the children and families;*

Goals: Documentation to be used to review and assess program quality as it pertains to children, families and staff.

Centre's Approach: A variety of different types of modes of assessment will be used to ensure that the goals outlined in this Program Statement are reflective of the experiences of the children, families and staff. Feedback will be collected via surveys, documentation (daily communication books, email, telephone and in person discussions) and centre meetings.

This Program Statement will be included in the preschool parent handbook for review. The preschool parent handbook is available to all parents on CICC's website. A hard copy will be provided to parents without internet access.

All new staff, students and volunteers will review this program statement prior to starting work at CICC, whenever the program statement is modified and annually thereafter. Documentation may be found in each staff, volunteer and student's personnel file.