


CATEGORY: Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014

SUBJECT: Program Statement

APPROVED BY: Shemina Ladak, Executive Director 

DATE: November 2016

REVIEWED: August 2025

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

CICC'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. CICC ensures children receive healthy snacks that take into account health issues and respect family requests and/or preferences. Snacks are planned to support children's health, nutrition, and well-being and to accommodate individual dietary needs, allergies, and medical requirements. 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.

CICC's Approach: Staff, volunteers and student's interactions will be respectful and sensitive to family culture, values, language, composition, and developmental abilities. Interactions will be modelled to reflect the value CICC places on inclusion. CICC 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 developing their communication skills and strategies for self-control.

CICC'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 and social skills in a safe, positive and supportive setting.

D. Foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry

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

CICC's Approach: Through group and individual program plans, all children will be encouraged to explore, play and ask questions. Children will be provided with an environment that supports all areas of their development and classroom skills, encouraging them to reach their full developmental potential and prepare for entry into the school system.

E. Provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences

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

CICC's Approach: Through parent interviews, observations and assessments, staff will develop programs that reflects the interests and developmental needs of individual children. Staff will document daily observations of each child and plan play-based learning opportunities that support individual developmental goals and areas of interest. Observations and planning will be continuous and available to all families. Staff will expand children's interests by adding materials, asking open-ended questions and scaffolding the children's learning through 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: CICC will provide an environment in which learning is rewarding and enjoyable, where each child's individual needs are met, and they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

CICC's Approach: Staff will develop programs that foster the individual developmental goals established for each child as well as the goals developed for their classroom grouping. Programming for each child and their group will reflect the children's interests as well as learning objectives established by the staff. Programming will be informed by ongoing observation, assessment and planning to ensure full inclusion and success for every child.

G. Incorporate play opportunities and consider the individual needs of the children

Goal: Classroom schedules provide opportunities for active play and quieter activities as appropriate, taking into account each child's individual needs. Group and Individual Program Plans (IPPs) will support the development of fine and gross motor skills, cognition, social skills, and communication for all children.

CICC'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. Daily group schedules allow children to develop comfort and confidence in both small and large groups, with emphasis on smooth transitions and classroom skills to support kindergarten readiness.

H. Foster ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children

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

CICC's Approach: Family involvement is welcomed, as CICC believes that strong partnerships with families strengthen children's opportunities for learning and development. This will be achieved through a team meeting prior to each child starting school, an "open door policy" welcoming parents to visit and observe their children during program hours, daily Lillio updates providing information about each child's day and activities, weekly communication summaries outlining highlights of the week and upcoming programming, regular communication with staff via email, telephone, and in-person conversations, parent workshops, and annual team meetings to discuss each child's progress.

I. Involve local community partners to support children, families and staff

Goal: Promote involvement of local agencies and community organizations to support learning for children, families and staff.

CICC's Approach: CICC 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. Consultations for individuals and groups of children are encouraged. Information

workshops will be offered to families and staff to support the growth and development of children.

J. Support ongoing professional learning for staff and others who interact with children

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

CICC's Approach: Professional development opportunities will be offered on an ongoing basis. Staff will have opportunities to participate in individual and group workshops, and are required to attend a minimum of one professional development session per school year. Volunteers and students will be offered training opportunities and individual support on an ongoing basis.

K. Document and review the impact of strategies set out in clauses (A) to (J) on the children and families

Goals: Use documentation to review and assess program quality as it pertains to children, families, and staff.

CICC's Approach: A variety of assessment methods will be used to ensure the goals outlined in this Program Statement reflect the experiences of children, families, and staff. Feedback will be collected via surveys, documentation (daily communication books, email, telephone and in person discussions) and meetings.

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

All new staff, students, and volunteers will review this Program Statement:

- Prior to starting at CICC
- Whenever it is modified
- Annually thereafter

Documentation will be maintained in each staff, volunteer, and student's personnel file.