

Brighton Children's Centre



PROGRAM STATEMENT

Brighton Children's Centre (BCC) is inspected annually and adheres to all requirements in the Child Care Early Years Act. We employ principles and practices according to the Ministry resource, "How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years". Our programs are based on the Four Foundations of Learning: Belonging, Well-Being, Engagement and Expression. We believe that children have the ability of using competencies they have already mastered, to follow their curious nature and discover the world around them. We strive to see the rich potential in every child and offer opportunities for individual growth and development. Allowing children time to express their thoughts, emotions and needs, listening carefully to what they have to say and how they say it, is paramount in our approach to encouraging positive communication and supporting self-regulation. We believe that children learn best when they are given encouragement and the opportunity to follow their curiosity about the world around them. Our teachers act as facilitators in children's learning through intentional observation and documentation. The documentation is posted and utilized to reinforce the child's natural ability to learn. Documentation, photos and parent communication is utilized through our "Sandbox App". We aim to create meaningful experiences by intentionally choosing materials that help to scaffold children's learning. We interact with them and share our own curiosity as co-learners in the experiences that are created. We choose to create learning environments where children have access to seek out and obtain for themselves, materials they can use to build on their experiences as they play and explore where

their inquisitive minds take them. Children's inquiry and initiative is always guiding and changing our experiences together.

We are striving to meet our children's health and well-being. Recently we have returned to family style meal and snack times, where children share in pleasant table conversation about healthy food choices, events of the day and common interests. We believe that a positive mealtime experience encourages healthy eating habits that last a lifetime! An afternoon rest period is essential for our preschoolers to rejuvenate from their very busy mornings, interacting with their peers and the environment.

We value collaboration between teachers, families, children and community partners. Located in Brighton Public School, we are immersed in community life and are often invited to be a part of events that are taking place. We strive to show the children how we are a part of the community we live in by being present on neighborhood walks or visiting people and places in our community such as the Fire Hall, Post Office, or Public Library. Community Partners such as the Public Health Unit are involved by providing support services for families. We collaborate with Five Counties Children's Centre and families at our centre can access extra support for their children. Families are encouraged to participate in Open House Events, Fundraising opportunities, Board of Director positions and special projects. We believe in working with families and community partners to grow great relationships both individually and as a Centre. The Brighton Children's Centre supports lifelong learning for everyone. We believe adults that are continuously learning make excellent teachers. Staff are asked to commit time regularly to self-reflection, planning for and seeking opportunities in professional learning that furthers their personal goals. When possible, time off is provided to accommodate attendance at workshops and conferences. Time to collaborate with colleagues is offered on a regular basis at staff meetings and planning time. Discussion with and learning from each other and the children is an ongoing process of development for everyone. Our staff practice self-reflection as part of regular Reflective Reviews as well as daily planning for the environment and learning opportunities within our Centre. Sharing what we learn helps us to better understand how our practices as individuals impact our children and families.

We value the trust parents place in us with what they treasure most – their children. We take their well-being and safety as our most serious business.