



175 Hampton Avenue  
 Toronto, ON M4K 2Z3  
 416-461-5151  
 childcircle@bellnet.ca

# Welcome to the Cool Cat Room

## A Little About Our Room

The children in the Cool Cat Room range in age from 5 to 6 years (senior kindergarten). The total number of children in the room is 30 but since the part-time children share full day spaces, there are only 24 children in the room at a time. There are three core staff in the room. Two ECE's, and one assistant. Since the Cool Cats attend kindergarten, there are two separate groups: one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Both groups meet up from 4pm to 6pm, after school. During our time together we play in a variety of activity areas:

### Sensory-Dramatic-Science-Block-Creative-Cognitive

As time passes, the group dynamics and interests change. We take our cues from the children when it comes to programming. Sometimes, we see a great interest in constructing, other times it is crafts, others preferred games and still others required more physical activity. We ensure that each child's needs are taken into consideration. At this age the children receive great satisfaction from teaching us what they know. The children are also continuing to develop social skills and problem-solving skills. We try to enforce a very inclusive environment in the Cool Cat Room. We help children engage in group activities and help them find the skills needed to learn how to play. Groups can often be intimidating so we help children find their way in. They must also learn that it is okay to play alone. Children need their personal space, too. Even at this age, children may need some guidance.

## Now What?

Transition from one room to the next is very easy. Friends that have already moved up provide the familiarity they need. Also at Children's Circle, children are exposed to all staff, so they often know the teachers before moving up. The children are given ample warning of the move and visit for a day before becoming a permanent Cool Cat. As for children attending the daycare for the first time, the transition is also very smooth. We find this a very close community and the children often know at least one child from our room, either from school or their neighborhood. The Cool Cats are also very nurturing and welcoming. They easily invite a child into their play and 'show them the ropes.'

## Our Typical Day

### Includes...

1. **At least one hour of outdoor play, weather permitting.**
2. **Circle Time**
3. **Up to 3 hours of playroom a day, with activities set up in all developmental areas.**
4. **Lunch and snacks**
5. **Walks to and from school**
6. **During school breaks, we organize fun activities and trips.**
7. **LOTS of love, smiles and fun!**

## Open Communication

1. Questions about your child or our programme is always encourage.
2. Your input into the daycare is important to us.
3. Get involved! Become a Board member or a committee member to view how the daycare operates.
4. If you have questions or concerns and need more time to talk to us, we are always willing and available for a scheduled meeting.



## Emergent Curriculum

Educators understand individual differences and arrange their room so that children can explore at their own pace. We base our programme on Emergent Curriculum planning models using the children's interests and needs as the main resource. The goal of our planning programme is to respond to every child's interests. Its practice is open-ended and self-directed.

## Specific Skills Being Developed

1. Identifying and printing the alphabet and numerals (1 to 100)
2. Recognizing basic words (cat, dog, mom, dad, love, from, at) and rhyming words (cat/bat/hat, car/far/tar)
3. Recognizing sounds and attempting to sound out complex words (umbrella, lady, flower)
4. Word identification through word searches
5. Simple adding and subtracting, even double digits!
6. Enhancing creative and dramatic flare
7. Problem-solving
8. Interaction with peers
9. Developing strong friendships.
10. Fostering independence.



## Have A Concern?

We are always willing to talk. We want to work as a team in nurturing your child. Pick ups and drop offs are often quite busy, so please feel free to arrange an appointment if you feel the need for a longer discussion. Communication is very important, so keep us informed of any difficult issues affecting your child. We take our role seriously and everything we discuss is confidential.

## Cool Cat Behaviour

- Responsible and helpful
- Need appraisal and recognition
- Sense of humour
- Negotiating
- Policing one another
- Assertiveness
- Recognize and appreciate differences and similarities amongst one another
- Energetic
- Competitive

Please remember each child capabilities varies. It can take some children a little more time and effort to reach their potential.

## Cool Cat Teachers Are Here To...

Listen — Support — Offer Options

Foster the emotional well-being of the child.

We are not here to judge. We like what we do.

We do it well.

We set limits and maintain clear, consistent ground rules:

- Every child needs a hug, a smile and a dose of humour.
- Each child has their own gifts.
- Each child should be honoured.



## Redirection and Support Should...

1. Help children identify the problem.
2. Show them ownership.
3. Provide ways to solve the problem.
4. Provide reasonable, simple, valuable and practical consequences.
5. Leave their dignity intact.

