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## Welcome to the Preschool Room

### A Little About Our Room

The children in the Preschool Room range in age from 2 ½ to 5 years. The maximum number of children is 24. There are three main staff in the room.

#### In the Preschool Room, children learn through different types of play areas:

**Creative Area:** Children explore by using materials to build and create, as well as to share their feelings, ideas and thoughts. They enjoy being creative by painting, playing with play-dough, plasticine, clay, recycled materials, and using their imaginations.

**Dramatic Area:** Dramatic and fantasy play provides opportunities for children to imagine, create and experience a sense of wonder. Children explore familiar experiences as they take on the roles of other people in their family or community. They explore possibilities, go on make believe adventures, create imaginary characters and use objects to represent their ideas (e.g. a box to represent a house or a paper roll to represent a microphone).

**Block Area:** Blocks encourage children to develop their gross motor skills by participating in activities with large and small blocks, trucks and tools.

**Science and Sensory Area:** Sensory play includes any activity that stimulates the child's senses: touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing. Sensory activities and sensory tables facilitate exploration and naturally encourage children to use scientific processes while they play, create, investigate and explore.

**Quiet Area:** Opportunities for the children to read and communicate with each other, on their own and with the staff.



## Our priorities

1. Encourage each child to develop his/her own potential.
2. Accept the child, his/her strengths and weaknesses and to respect his/her individuality.
3. Model caring and respect for others regardless of race, colour, sex or religion.
4. Complement the child's home experience through information sharing and consultation with parents.



## Enrichment Activities

The Preschoolers partake in two special enrichment activities each week: Dancing with Donna and Monkeynastix.

Dancing with Donna is led by Donna. In this activity the children experience movement, interpretative dance and drama to the beat of cultural music.

Monkeynastix is led by Julie. In this activity the children develop flexibility, balance, strength, agility and co-ordination in an interactive gym program with various equipment and accessories.

The child care participates in these two programs on alternating weeks.

## Preschool Behaviour

**Personal space:** Space for children to play with others and to play alone. Children have their own clearly identifiable personal space in out of home settings, such as a cubby. Children's personal belongings, items to be taken home, and portfolios can be kept in the room where they are easily accessible to children and parents.

**Outdoor/indoor space:** ECEs ensure easy access between the inside and the outside and provides the use of equipment such as bikes, wagons, balls, the climber and the sand box.

**Displays:** ECEs put displays at children's level. Children's work shows their name and the date. Displays show positive real-life images that reflect the children in the setting and the wider community.

**Celebrations:** ECEs focus on festivals relevant to the families in the setting before extending to other festivals. He/she works with parents to decide how these can be celebrated.

**Open-ended materials:** There is a wide variety of open-ended materials such as big and small blocks, play-dough, fabrics, re-cycled materials, paints, sand, water, clay, paper, and natural items such as stones, twigs and leaves available to promote creativity, exploration and imagination.

**Diversity:** The environment, equipment, materials, and displays reflect the diversity of Canada's multicultural society. This includes, ability, gender, ethnic diversity, and family structure.