



Little Munchkin
Daycare

LITTLE MUNCHKIN DAYCARE

Dear Parents,

This information package has been prepared to introduce you to our centre and share our philosophy, policies and procedures. Please read it carefully and keep it for reference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask us.

THE CENTRE'S BACKGROUND.

Little Munchkin Daycare is a daycare centre which offers full-time and part-time care to families in our community.

STAFF PROFILE

Our child-care staff are trained and certified as Early Childhood Educators (ECE) and in many instances have Infant and Toddler specialization. All staff hold valid first-aid, criminal record check clearance in addition to their license to practice in BC. Staff continuously upgrade their education through workshops, conferences, independent study, and researching topics of interest.

SETTLING YOUR CHILD INTO CARE:

Introduction into long daycare hours can be difficult for children and parents. Children's welfare and happiness are priority for staff when welcoming new children to the centre and assisting families settle into the centre environment. It is recognized that family needs vary greatly in the orientation process and we will strive to meet individual needs as best as possible.

The following outlines some helpful hints for parents on settling their child into care:

- Make sure you familiarize your child with the environment. We usually recommend a 3 day integration schedule [i.e. first 3 days of attendance] before commencing full-time: 1st day = 1.5 hours, 2nd day = 3 hours, 3rd day = 5 hours. The above schedule is the quickest integration, however, you are than welcome to extend the integration period (i.e. shorter visits spread over more days).

- Provide a favorite toy, blanket or comforter to support your child when they are separating from you. This can help your child feel more secure.
- If your child is unsettled, short visits will help your child gain trust with an unfamiliar environment.
- Interactions between staff and parents or staff and other children will serve as positive role models and provide reassuring experience for your child. This experience will help to establish trust in an unfamiliar setting.
- Try to talk/remind at home to your child about the centre. Mention the names of the staff and other children. Talk about the things the child will be able to do at child care that are fun and enjoyable.
- Talk to the staff about your child, for example, what they like to do, foods they like and dislike and ways of settling them to sleep. This helps staff to get to know your child.
- When leaving your child it is best to make sure you say goodbye and then leave. Hesitating and not going after you have said your goodbyes, especially if a child is upset, only confuses them. Reassure your child that everything is alright and you will return later, this can help put them at ease.
- It is sometimes helpful to establish a routine when leaving. For example, giving your child a cuddle and giving them to a staff member or sitting down with them for a short play or reading a book together then leaving.
- At first some children protest strongly while others may take a day or two to realize that you are leaving them and begin to protest after several days. Children soon learn that you do return and in the mean time they are well cared for.

DAILY ROUTINES

Each room in the centre has a set routine which covers approximate times for activities such as meals, nappy changes, sleep and so on. Routines will vary from time to time according to the needs of the group and individual children.

PHILOSOPHY OF CHILDCARE

Little Munchkin Daycare implements a play-based curriculum model, where children learn through play. Our program incorporates child-initiated free choice and teacher-initiated activities. We offer a wide range of activities (both indoors and outdoors) to enable children to explore the world around them, and are designed to develop cognitive and social skills. Our child-centered approach ensures that each child's unique needs are met. As an extension of the child's home life, our program presents consistent and nurturing care through which children in the early stages of development continue to develop basic sense of security and trust in the world around them.

DAILY SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – MAY VARY BETWEEN PROGRAMS)

7:45am – 8:45am	Arrival/Free Play Time
8:45am – 9:30am	Outdoor Play
9:30am – 10:15am	Morning Snack
10:15am – 11:00am	Diaper Routine
11:00am – 11:30am	Music Activity/ Art Activity

11:30am – 12:15 pm	Lunch Time
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Diaper Routine
12:30pm – 2:30pm	Nap Time
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Diaper Routine
2:45pm – 3:15pm	Snack Time
3:15pm – 4:00 pm	Outdoor Play
4:15pm – 4:35pm	Circle time
4:35 pm – 5:30 pm	Free Play/Pick Up Time + Diaper Change (if required)

RELEASE OF A CHILD

At the time of child's registration - the following information is required (please note that this is all included in the registration form which is required to be filled out only):

1. Parents/Legal guardian name, phone number and addresses.
2. Name(s) of the person(s) who will pick up child, if different from parents/guardian.
3. In case parents are separated, then the name of legal custodian and the copy of the legal custody papers from court.
4. If the child is in the custody of Ministry of Children and Family Development, the child's social worker must provide authorization.

5. A child will not be released to any person(s) whose name is not on the information list.
6. Emergency contact person name and number.
7. Family doctor and dentist - name and phone number.
8. Immunization record.

Above information must be provided before a child starts childcare. Failure to comply with this policy, we reserve the right to refuse admission of the child into daycare. The above information will be kept in a separate folder for each individual child.

We will not release a child to a person who seems under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or who does not seem fit to take him/herself and the child home safely. We'll offer to call a taxi or contact other emergency/contact individuals provided on the information list. In case the person insists on taking child, police and child protection worker will be alerted.

If a parent does not arrive to pick-up on time without informing from before, then after 15 minutes we'll call the primary contacts followed by the alternate/emergency contacts on file.

ARRIVAL

We will not be able to accept any child before 07:45 am.

If your child will not be able to attend (sickness or otherwise) - please let us know before 8:45 am on that day.

DEPARTURE

Daycare closing time is 5:30pm.

Late pick-up policy – we will allow for late pick-up (10 min max) for the first 2 times without penalty. However, after the third time and onwards – you will be charged \$15.00 for every 15 minutes – children must be picked up 30 minutes after closing.

For other details of child pick up - please refer to the child release policy above.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Provincial regulation states that no child may attend the daycare if he/she has or is developing any of the following:

- 1 Difficulty in breathing –wheezing or a persistent cough
- 2 Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38.3 degrees Celsius or higher)
- 3 Sore throat, trouble swallowing or excessive coughing
- 4 Infected skin or eyes, or an undiagnosed rash
- 5 Severe headache or stiff neck (should see a physician)
- 6 Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting
- 7 Severe itching, dry skin of either body or scalp caused by head or body lice or scabies
- 8 Infectious or communicable diseases (including but limited to the list below):
 - a. Chickenpox and Shingles(Varicella)
 - b. Cold Sores (Herpes Simplex type 1,2)
 - c. Croup
 - d. Ear Infections
 - e. Fifty Disease (Parvovirus B19)
 - f. Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease
 - g. Impetigo
 - h. Influenza(Flu)
 - i. Measles
 - j. Meningitis (Bacterial & Viral)
 - k. Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
 - l. Molluscum Contagiosum
 - m. Mononucleosis (Mono)
 - n. Mumps
 - o. Norovirus
 - p. Pneumonia
 - q. Roseola
 - r. Rotavirus
 - s. Rubella (German Measles)
 - t. Streptococcal Infections
 - u. Thrush and Candida Diaper Rash (Yeast Infection)

The child may not return to the centre until the above symptoms subside for minimum period of 24 hours and is well enough to participate in all areas of the program including outdoor play.

Children who are not feeling well enough to be part of the center's program (including outdoor play and walks) need to stay at home. If your child becomes ill during the day, you will be notified to pick up your child immediately. If we cannot contact you, we will call the emergency contacts. Your child may be given a quiet area to rest, away from the other children, but within supervision of staffs, until an authorized person arrives to pick up your child.

Children immunization records are required at the time of registration. Updated immunization records are required on a yearly basis.

Children are required to wash hands when they come to daycare in the morning. Before eating and after using the bathroom.

Parents will be required to send bedding (crib bed sheet/sleeping mat), blanket, and pillow (if required) from home.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Whenever possible, parents are asked to dispense non-prescription drugs to their child themselves. If any such drugs are to be given at their request, please complete the dispensation of medication section in the *child care registration form*.

No medication, including non-prescription drugs, will be given without a parent and doctor's written permission. Please insure the medication is in its original bottle.

FIRSTAID

All staff caring for children have completed basic courses in CPR and First Aid. A First Aid kit approved by medical health officer is kept in the daycare at all times.

REPORTABLE INCIDENTS

The daycare will notify the medical health officer within 24 hours after a child is seriously injured while under-care or if the child has a reportable communicable disease. In case of injury, requiring medical treatment, an incident report will be completed and submitted to the local health unit within 24 hours.

All expenses relating to the injured child will be the sole responsibility of the parents.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY POLICY

We give high preference to safety of children and staff in our daycare.

As a procedure, fire drills are conducted on a regular basis.

All emergency procedures and phone numbers are posted in the centre.

Daycare provides first aid kits and fire extinguishers.

In case of emergency, parents or emergency contact person will be notified to pick up the child.

Alternate meeting location during extenuating circumstances (unsafe to remain at facility) is posted in the centre – please ask staff.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Reporting and Prevention

Any suspected child abuse will be reported to Ministry for Children and Family Development

SMOKING

No person is allowed to smoke within the premises of Daycare.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1 Supply food, clothing and supplies (a list will be provided).
- 2 Please inform us of any illnesses.
- 3 Respect the privacy of other children and their parents.
- 4 Provide us with an emergency contact person, who can pick-up the child if the parents are not available for any reason and the child needs to go earlier than the regular pick-up time (please complete registration form).
- 5 Provide us with authorization to get emergency medical care for your child, in case parents or emergency contact person cannot be reached (included within registration form).
- 6 Please make sure that your child is brought to the daycare well rested, healthy, clean and fed (if they have not eaten then kindly let us know).
- 7 Provide **45 day notice** when terminating service with Little Munchkin Daycare.
- 8 Please inform us of any changes in the following:
 - Address.
 - Phone numbers of home and work/cell.
 - Emergency information.

- Custody.

- Access of Parents.

- Care hours and number of days needed.

- Drop off and pick up time.

- Notice of Withdrawal.