



PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation provides quality licensed child care for children in Burford and its surrounding communities. As a licensed Child Care Centre, the Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation meets and exceeds all health and safety requirements of the Ministry of Education and local government by-laws. The Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation offers learning programs that are consistent with the Ministry of Education's policy statement on programming and pedagogy. All classrooms have a minimum of one Registered Early Childhood Educator, who has extensive knowledge of the importance of play, exploration, and inquiry. All Burford Co-operative Preschool employees also have a current certification in Standard First Aid, including Infant & Child CPR. In addition to First Aid and CPR, all Early Childhood Educators are required to obtain a minimum of 8 hours of Professional Development hours per year. The Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation believes that continuous professional learning is crucial for the continued success of the Educators and children in our care. All educators, students, and volunteers review all Policies & Procedures, including this Program Statement, prior to interacting with the children, annually, and any time the Program Statement, Policies or Procedures, is modified.

Our programs have been set up to fulfill the needs of all children and to provide the foundational conditions of belonging, well-being, engagement, expression, health, safety, and nutrition that are required for children to grow and flourish. Our Early Childhood Educators believe that children are competent, capable, curious, and rich in potential. Our Early Childhood Educators foster the children's exploration, play, and inquiry by observing, engaging with, and listening to the children. This allows educators to be able to plan for and create positive learning environments and experiences in and out of the classroom so that each child's learning and development will be supported and which is inclusive of all children, including children with individualized plans. Early Childhood Educators follow the child's lead as well as provide adult supported experiences. Indoor and outdoor play (weather permitting), active and quiet play, rest time, and group and free choice activities are incorporated into the programs each day giving consideration to the individual needs of the children.

Early Childhood Educators encourage the children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate. Much eye contact, role modelling, and close proximity assist the children while they learn these lifelong skills.

Early Childhood Educators attempt to create their classrooms to be an extension of the child's home. Safety is paramount, but each child also needs to be happy and feel loved while they are at the Centre. If they need snuggles, they get them; if noses are runny, they get wiped, if the zippers on coats begin to slide down, they get done up right away, etc. The children are to be treated, at all times, as if their parent were standing two feet away.

Whatever Educators are able to do to make a child feel welcome, they will do. If a stuffed toy, gives the child comfort, the children are able to carry that stuffed toy everywhere; if they have a favourite blanket that gives them comfort, that blanket can be with them. Some children feel more comfortable having a picture of their family close by. That is alright too. Whatever makes the child feel secure and welcome, our Early Childhood Educators will accommodate.

Each day, every child's health will be assessed upon their arrival to the Centre. If ill health develops during the day, parents/guardians will be notified immediately. Symptoms of ill health will be recorded by the staff in

the child's file. If the staff is unable to contact the child's parent(s)/guardian(s), the person on the Emergency Contact Form will be called.

The Burford Co-op Preschool Corporation supplies a morning and afternoon snack for our Before and After School Programs. All other classrooms, at the Burford Co-op Preschool & Children's Centre receive a mid-morning snack, lunch, and mid afternoon snack. A full menu is posted each week. All meals, snacks, and beverages meet the recommendations set out in the Health Canada Document "Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide."

Parents are able to identify special dietary and feeding arrangements for their children. These special arrangements must be provided in writing and the Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation will ensure that they are carried out. In the event of an anaphylactic allergy in the program, every effort will be made to ensure that the Preschool is free of the allergen, and/or causative agents. The Preschool Cook is able to accommodate the children with special dietary needs by cooking the same foods that are being served to everyone else, but using the particular ingredients that individual children require. The Preschool serves homogenized milk to the infants and toddlers, and 2 % milk for all other children. Parents, of children who require a particular milk, are required to purchase that particular milk themselves. Please make sure that all individual milk supplies are marked with the child's name on it. The Centre Cook is happy to let parents know when the child's milk supply is running low. Drinking water is available at all times.

No child will ever be forced to eat, and food will never be used to reward children. Removal./deprivation of food and drink is prohibited ant the Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation.

The Burford Co-op Preschool Corporation promotes diversity, equity and inclusion in all of our programs. Children develop an element of respect and acceptance for diversity of his/her peers in group settings. The connections they are learning to make, at a young age, will allow the children future success in their everyday lives.

The Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation does involve local community partners, and allows those community partners to support the children, their families, and staff.

Several times each year, the Burford Co-op Preschool & Children's Centre accepts Early Childhood Education students from area Colleges. Assistance from licensed Child Care Centres is crucial to the learning process for the students. Prior to beginning their placement, each student attends an Orientation session at the Burford Co-op Preschool & Children's Centre whereby they read all Policies & Procedures, and have already completed their Police screenings, Health Clearances, and First Aid/ CPR C Certification. Only Centre Staff members will have direct unsupervised access to children. Direct unsupervised access is not permitted for students or volunteers. Students and volunteers will never be counted into staffing ratios.

Occasionally, area high school students request to complete co-op hours at the Burford Co-op Preschool & Children's Centre. Prior to beginning their placement, each student attends an Orientation session at the Burford Co-op Preschool & Children's Centre whereby they read all Policies & Procedures, and provide copies of their immunization records.

We offer programs where all children, families, and staff are valued as active participants and contributors. Staff, children, parents and child care providers are strongly encouraged to ensure that all interactions are supportive and responsive. Every family brings unique characteristics and strengths to the program. Preschool staff do their very best to foster the engagement of ongoing communication with parents. The HiMama app is used as one form of communication for families with children enrolled in the Infant, Toddler, and full day preschool classrooms. A Family Information Board is posted, in the front entrance hall of the Centre, with the purpose of informing parents/guardians of all pertinent licensing information as well as any changes in our daily schedule. The Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation attempts to email as much

information to parents as possible. This includes monthly newsletters, calendars, accident reports, etc. Monthly newsletters and calendars help to keep parents updated about all pertinent information and activities. A great deal of information is also available on the Preschool website at www.Burford-Preschool.ca. How Does Learning Happen Boards and binders are in every classroom at the Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation. Pictures and documentation show activities the children have done as well as explain what interests led to the activity and what the children learned from the activities. Early Childhood Educators want to make sure every child and family has a successful experience, in all programs, at the Burford Co-operative Preschool Corporation. No concern is ever too small. We want to make sure that families feel as comfortable as the children they leave in our care. Parents are encouraged to call, and email, the Centre as often as they like. We do have an open-door policy. Staff are happy to share updates with families and forward photos to put a concerned parents' mind at ease. Communication with Centre staff members is crucial to a positive relationship between families and the Preschool.