



Cambie Community Centre Licensed Preschool Program Information Package

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Thank you for your interest in our Cambie preschool programs. Choosing the right preschool for your child can be mind boggling. This package is intended to give you some information to help make the best choice for you and your family. If you have questions after going through this package, please do not hesitate to contact us at 604-238-8385 or AOLmstead-Wilcox@richmond.ca and we will be happy to help you make the best choice for your child and family.

Cambie's Preschool Philosophies

The preschool programs offered at Cambie Community Centre are aimed at developing all areas of children's development. This is fostered through play and exploration of the world around each child.

Listed below are Kinderfun and Little Explorers philosophies.

LITTLE EXPLORERS PHILOSOPHY

Little Explorers is a preschool where children are given the opportunity to freely explore their surroundings. We provide a rich inclusive environment for children to play, explore, live in the moment and grow as independent and self-directed individuals. While exploring the daily activities, they are encouraged to express themselves freely through play. Play is science, discovery, invention, research and experiments. Play is the most important method that children use to learn about their everyday world; it is how they find answers to their questions.

We believe children learn best when they are given freedom to express themselves while being accepted for who they are. Some of the fundamental children's rights are to be loved, accepted, nurtured and given ample opportunity to play. The process in which children learn is through observation, experimentation, and finally mastery. They are able to achieve mastery through play. Their play is actually their "work / learning". Children need to run, jump and climb freely outdoors for healthy brain development. Our outdoor play area provides this opportunity. Our programming will move outdoors from April to June (our classroom activities will all be outdoors.)

We accept that all children learn in their own unique way. No two children are alike; they learn at their own pace. The program is non-competitive and there is no testing of ability or direct comparison to peers. We encourage all children to achieve their personal best thus creating a positive sense of self. In our inclusive environment there is a sense of acceptance and belonging for all.

Families are an important part of our preschool. We encourage parents to take an active role in their child's early learning experience. Parents are an important resource to our program as they know their child best. Parents and teachers both want the very best for the child in the program. We work in partnership to ensure that their needs are being met. Parents are welcome to talk freely about their child's development within our program.

Our teaching team listen to, observe and document what the children are engaging in and then follow their interests to create our daily activities. We follow their passions and expand their knowledge base to excite and honor their curiosity. We respect all family's beliefs and cultures and encourage others to do so as well. We strive to provide a safe, environment where children are free to explore the environment

around them. We offer opportunity for "risk taking" as this is part of their learning. We believe allowing children to test their own limits and do their own risk assessments is the best safety skill we can "teach" children. Our children are observed and encouraged by staff at all times while trying new things. When children are told "No", they tend to want it more; by us helping children set safe limits for "their bodies", they learn to respect themselves, each other and their environment.

KINDERFUN PHILOSOPHY

Kinderfun Preschool is a program that enriches and nourishes your child's early learning experience. Through the daily activities we offer, you will find your child's social skills emerge which leads to stronger communication, friendships and a positive self esteem.

As a teaching team, we believe that children are open-minded individuals, who at the same time have their own points of view. During the preschool years, children's creativity, imagination and language develop. As inquisitive learners, they are willing to learn through trying out new activities, words and materials. The children in our program are worthy of love, praise and acceptance and most importantly, respect. Children learn by example thus need strong role models.

Parents are one of children's first role models and they play a huge role in a child's development. As they spend so much time with their child, a parent is an expert regarding their child. As teachers, we come to you, the parents regularly to confer regarding your child's development. Parents are important in the lives of their children; thus they are important to our program. We rely on parent's support for our program as well as to the children in Kinderfun.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS:

Kinderfun Preschool

- ❑ is a program that emphasizes the importance of play.
- ❑ we encourage learning through activities and games.
- ❑ children will go on field trips approximately every 2 months.
- ❑ has an observation room attached to the classroom. Parents are welcome to observe their child without them knowing you are there.
- ❑ is a family centered program that welcomes parental involvement. One of the ways parents are part of their child's early learning years is through "Parent Helper Days".
- ❑ offers a variety of learning materials influenced by the teachers; the process and product are influenced by the child.
- ❑ Art centre open each day for children to create freely.
- ❑ sensory activities are provided each day for children to explore.
- ❑ piano in the classroom for daily use by children and parents

Little Explorers Preschool

- is a program that offers flexibility in daily scheduling.
- is a play based program that realizes the importance of play in young children's lives.
- teachers set up a learning environment to promote sensorial learning, thinking, exploration and discovery following children's interests.
- has a strong focus on nature; and introducing children to the beauty of nature.
- children will explore and appreciate the great outdoors. (Our indoor classroom is moved outdoors from April to June)
- children will go on monthly field trips has small group activities for more individualized learning.
- fosters independence within children as they discover their capabilities through risk taking and exploration.
- our art centre is open for the children to create freely.
- children bring a piece of fruit or vegetable for snack and are part of snack preparation.
- parent helpers are required.

Little Explorers - Kindergarten Prep

*(for children registered in Kinderfun or Little Explorers who were born in 2014.
This is for the Sep-June 2018-2019 school year.)*

Little Explorers Kindergarten Prep program is designed to support preschool aged children in developing skills that will help them be successful in Kindergarten. Our school readiness program offers a range of hands-on learning activities to foster social, emotional, and academic skills as we work on transitioning children into a school setting. Through their experiences at "Kinder Prep" (also called "Lunch Club"), children will be exposed to activities that stimulate curiosity, initiative and independence.

This class prepares your child for school with age-appropriate activities, learning concepts, socialization skills, baking, science and a whole lot of fun! Your child will gain an understanding of shapes, colours, pre-phonics (identifying letter sounds, writing the alphabet and simple words) as well as number recognition. Children will have many opportunities to make new friends and have fun!

Daily Schedules

Kinderfun

Children put coats and backpacks in cubbies and go to carpet area.

Opening Circle - a gathering time to check in with the children. Children look at books while waiting for their friends to arrive. Once most children have arrived, we start our circle time. During this time, we do the calendar and weather as well as discuss the daily activities that are set out for the children.

Free Play - Children play with the classroom materials. There will be many centers for children to choose from – art, playdough, puzzles, games, dress up area, blocks, sensory table and library corner.

Clean Up - All children help out in cleaning the room in preparation for snack time.

Circle Time - Children gather on the carpet for circle time. Here songs, stories as well as gross motor activities are introduced to the children. Circle activities are tied into the children's interests. Children share their adventure stories with the classroom "pet" during this time as well.

Hand washing and Snack Time - Children will wash their hands, get their snacks from their cubbies and sit together for snack.

Outside Time - Children go outside every day for gross motor opportunities. These may include playing on our playground with loose parts such as planks, tires, sand kitchen, or going for walks.

Parents pick up their children from outside.

Little Explorers

Children find their name outside and bring it into the classroom. They put their coats and backpacks in their cubbies, fruit in the bowl and then find a place to play.

Free Play – Children are free to choose from activities set out in the classroom. These would include art, games, blocks, snack preparation, playdough, free art, as well as water and light tables. Often times, the classroom will be set up outdoors for the children. We also go for walks into our nearby forests to explore the trees, shrubs and other treasures.

Story time occurs at 9:30am. Children may choose to come for the story. We allow children to stay for as long as their attention span allows. This is done in an area of the classroom or outdoors during Free Play.

Hand washing and Snack happens during the Free Play part of our day. Snack is set up on a table between 10:00 and 10:30am and children are able to come to the table when they are hungry.

Clean Up time - Children take part in cleaning up the classroom and outdoors.

Sharing Time – We divide into 2 groups and have brainstorming sessions with the children. Everyone has a voice in their learning at Little Explorers and this a great time for sharing.

Outdoor Time - Every day we go outside to explore and play. We have lots of natural "loose parts" (planks, wood "cookies", tires, mud kitchen utensils and wheel barrows) that are used by the children to create their own outdoor play space.

Circle and Good-bye Time - We also will discuss what we have learned today during class. We share our home literacy project with parents and children. After singing our Good-bye song, parents pick up children from the classroom.

From April to June, our program moves completely outdoors. The routines are the same however the times may change. We don't divide into small groups for our circle times but come together as a large group.

Daily Schedule

Little Explorers – Kindergarten Prep

For children born in **2014** and registered in Kinderfun or Little Explorers

Children gather in the Little Explorers classroom (children from Kinderfun are walked over by a staff person). They put their coats and backpacks in their cubby bin and are then ready to start their day. Below is the schedule of a typical day in Kindergarten Prep; which is also called "Lunch Club".

11:30-11:40 - Bathroom/wash hands – children walk with Anne-Marie to the public washroom to toilet and wash hands for lunch.

11:40-12:00 – Lunch – children find their name on the table and then unpack and eat their lunches.

12:00-12:20 - Journals (Mon/Tues) Baking/Science/Art (Wed/Thurs) – children work on their journals and baking or other science activity as a group.

12:20-12:40 - Math and literacy centers – there are wonderful activities set out for the children to manipulate. Some are single person activities while others are group activities.

12:40-1:00 - Circle (calendar, weather, counting, songs and stories) – children end their day with a circle time.

1:00pm - Dismissal

"Experience is not the best teacher, it is the only teacher!"
~ Bev Bos

PROGRAM TIMES AND FEES:

2018/2019 School Year

Kinderfun classes are shown below:

Monday / Wednesday / Friday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
or 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
\$182 per month (2 ½ hours per day)

Tuesday / Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
\$129 per month (2 ½ hours per day)

Little Explorers classes are shown below:

Monday / Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
\$122 per month (2 ½ hours per day)

Tuesday / Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
\$131 per month (2 ½ hours per day)

Little Explorers – Kindergarten Prep

This class is for children registered in our Kinderfun and Little Explorers program who will go to Kindergarten in September 2019.

Monday 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
\$34 per month

Tuesday 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
\$39 per month

Wednesday 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
\$39 per month

Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
\$39 per month

Parent Helpers:

Parent helpers are an important part of our preschool programs. All preschool programs at Cambie require parent participation. There are many ways that parents help make our programs successful; however the main way of helping is doing a "Parent Duty Day".

Please note that Little Explorers Preschool will require 2 parent helpers per day.

Below is a list of ways that parents help make our preschool programs successful:

Parent Helpers ...ways to help in the classroom

As a parent helper, there are many different ways to help in the classroom.

Free Play

- Help children write names on artwork and put artwork away
 - Other odd jobs.
 - Prepare Snack (Little Explorers)

Clean Up Time

- Wash tables with disinfecting cleaner
 - Help clean up toys

Snack Time

- Sit down at a table, talk to and help children during snack time

After Snack

- Wash tables with disinfecting cleaner
 - Sweep floor
- Wash paint containers and snack containers

Outside Time

- Help staff with supervision of children
- Put toys away in outside storage room in the afternoon only.

We are aware that parents are not always available to help out in the classroom; thus we have a list of other ways that you can help out. This is listed below:

Optional Parent Helper Duties

- wash toys
- raking playground
- toy / book repair
- cutting
- classroom take down – outside toys put away
- laundry

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN AT PRESCHOOL?

Your child will learn many things while at preschool. Each program has its own philosophy on how and what children will learn while in attendance. The main thing that your child will discover at our school is how to socialize. Language, how to get along with one another, meeting other people their own age, and having fun are encouraged in all our programs. Children learn to be competent risk takers.

HOW DO I ACCESS FUNDING FOR MY CHILD TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL?

You will need to contact the Ministry of Children and Families Child Care Subsidy 1-888-338-6622. They will guide you through the steps that are required.

Please know that even if you qualify for full subsidy, there will be an amount owing each month. A letter will be provided to you upon our receipt of the Subsidy Childcare Benefit Plan which will outline the amounts that you will be responsible to pay.

HOW DO I CANCEL IF I NEED TO?

You must give our office one-month notice in writing, from the first of the month, prior to your child leaving the program. Withdrawal forms are available at the front desk. The last date to withdraw before September is July 31st, and the last date to withdraw before June is March 31st. Please note that children must be in attendance until our school year end in June to be able to pre-register for the following year.

IF WE GO ON HOLIDAYS FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME DO I NEED TO PAY?

If you want to hold your place you will have to pay. It will be up to you if you want to withdraw and take a chance on the spot being available on your return. Remember one month's notice would have to be given.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE TOILET TRAINED?

Children do **not** need to be toilet trained to attend our preschools. Even children who are fully trained can have accidents while engrossed in play. If your child has accidents often you would be asked to send spare clothes for us to change them in to. If your child is in diapers or pull-ups it will be your responsibility to provide these items to the teachers. Our teachers will change and clean up after any accidents your child may have. Universal Precautions require us to use rubber gloves while doing the changing and cleaning up.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THEIR IMMUNIZATIONS?

Licensing requires that we have complete records of all immunizations that the children in our care have received. If your child has not had any immunizations, please indicate this on our Immunization page of your Registration Package. Staff will inform you of any illness outbreaks that may put your child at risk and you may be asked to keep your child at home.

WHAT ARE THE SNACK POLICIES OF THE PRESCHOOLS?

Children in Kinderfun are required to bring a nutritious snack each day. Snacks are not to contain eggs, peanuts or nuts as we have children with allergies to these in our programs.

Children registered in Little Explorers will bring a piece of fruit or vegetable to school. Each day a group of children will work with a teacher or parent and prepare the snack for the class.

Water is served for the children each day in both programs. Parents are welcome to send bottled water with their child if they prefer.

WHY ARE ALL THE MONTHS THE SAME PRICE EVEN THOUGH SOME MONTHS ARE SHORTER THAN OTHERS ARE?

The Centre sets the fees for the preschool programs by adding up all the hours from September through to June, then multiplies that amount by the per hour fee. They then divide that amount by 10 (the number of months in the school year) and end up with the monthly cost. Technically, you are paying a "per hour" cost not a "per month" so the length of month really doesn't matter.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES IN THE PRESCHOOLS?

Each teacher has their own idea on how children learn and this is reflected in the programs. If you need more information regarding these differences, please contact Anne Marie to arrange a viewing of the programs.

IT SEEMS SO UNSTRUCTURED, IS THERE ANY STRUCTURE?

There is a difference between structured and controlled. We "structure" the environment by setting up a safe environment for all children. The children control the environment by how they choose to play / explore with the materials in their environment.

DO YOU TEACH NUMBERS OR ABC'S?

Our days are full of songs, stories, language, and conversation. Children pick up the concept that letters form words and counting has a purpose through incidental activities set out each day. To sit children down and "teach" language and math takes those things out of the context of everyday life and of how young children learn - by doing. A study showed that only 7% of what you convey using verbal communication sticks.

DO YOU TEACH CHILDREN TO READ?

"What has to come first before a child learns to read, are having "experiences to attach words to" and "pictures on the walls of their mind." Teaching young children to read is an example of how we tend to get things out of order." – Bev Bos

WHAT ABOUT SUMMER PRESCHOOL?

Cambie Community Centre offers programs for preschool aged children in the summer. Please check the Summer Recreation and Culture guide for more information on Summer Programming.

NOTES / QUESTIONS:

After reading through this package, jot down any questions you have and contact us at 604-238-8385 or AOLmstead-Wilcox@richmond.ca