



Cambie Community Centre Licensed Preschool Program Information Package



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Cambie Preschool offers unique programs for 3 to 5 year old children, which involves cooperative efforts between parents and staff as part of the preschool team.

Our programs are a Reggio-inspired, play-based program that provides children with the opportunity to develop their skills in all areas. We believe children learn through interacting with others and experimenting with different mediums. Our environment allows children to explore the world around them in a safe and predictable setting. Children are encouraged to be independent, make choices and tap into their learning style. As children all learn differently, we strive to work with each child as an individual while guiding them to work responsibly in a group setting.

We recognize the diversity and uniqueness of each child and their family. We honour each child as a unique, competent and capable individual, and we are committed to offering an environment they can explore, in collaborative ways, at their own speed.

Each classroom is a flexible and creative space, one that is free from the tight constraints of routine and overbearing structure; we strive to listen, observe and respond to children's individual rhythms within our collective space. We value time, the journeys of learning and the pleasures of being together.

The school year is from September 11, 2023, to June 18, 2024. Cambie Preschool follows the Richmond School District (SD#38) calendar for statutory holidays, winter break and spring break, which will be two weeks each. When the Richmond School District adopts new statutory holidays, our programs may align with observing the holidays as well. Cambie preschool will be closed for two professional development days during the year. In the event of severe weather conditions, our preschool will close if the Richmond School Board closes the surrounding schools. Parents are advised to check with CKNW 980am or www.cknw.com to see if the schools are closed.

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
We will be happy to help you make the best choice for your child and family.



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; they find answers to their questions.

We believe children learn best when they have the 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 can achieve mastery through play. Their play is 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 occurs outdoors in September until mid-October and from April to June (our classroom activities will all be outdoors.) We move indoors for mid October to March.

We accept that all children learn in their 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. There is a sense of acceptance and belonging for all in our inclusive environment.

LITTLE EXPLORERS PRESCHOOL – 3 hours

- ❑ children will explore and appreciate the great outdoors. (We start outdoors in our amazing outdoor classroom for September and ½ of October, and as well as April, May and June) We will be indoors from mid October to March
- ❑ 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 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.
- ❑ Incorporates gardening and growing vegetables and herbs.

LITTLE EXPLORERS DAILY SCHEDULE

Children are dropped off outside at the classroom doors while in their inside classroom, at the gate while at their outdoor classroom. Children arrive and place their belongings in their cubbies.

Choice Play Block – 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.

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.

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

Clean Up Time - Children take part in cleaning up the classroom.

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.

Circle and Dismissal - We 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.

September to mid-October and again from April to June, our program moves completely outdoors. Class is held in our beautiful outdoor classroom at the back of the East Richmond Hall.



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.

KINDERFUN PRESCHOOL – 2.5 hours

- ❑ is a program that emphasizes the importance of play.
- ❑ we encourage learning through activities and games.
- ❑ children will go on field trips approximately 2 times a year. Walking trips around cambie a few times a week.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ routines to build structure during the morning/afternoon.

KINDERFUN DAILY SCHEDULE

Children are dropped off at the playground gate. Children place backpacks in cubbies and play outside.

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 the preschool playground gate.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN 1.5 hours

The Junior Kindergarten 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 Junior K, children will be exposed to activities that stimulate curiosity, initiative and independence. ***This program is for children registered in Kinderfun morning program or Little Explorers who were born in 2019. This is for the Sep-June 2023-2024 school year.***

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 Schedule

Junior Kindergarten 11:30am-1:00pm

For children born in **2019** and registered in Kinderfun morning 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 the Junior Kindergarten program.

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

PROGRAM TIMES AND FEES:

Cambie Preschool has applied for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative. Should our program be approved to opt in, monthly child care fees may be reduced up to \$95 per month. Any change to our program's application status will be communicated via email by the Program Coordinator.

2023/2024 School Year

Kinderfun classes:

M/W/F 9:00am–11:30am OR 12:30pm–3:00pm **\$215.75**/month (2½ hours per day)

Tu/Th 9:00am–11:30am OR 12:30pm–3:00pm **\$154.40**/month (2½ hours per day)

Little Explorers classes:

M/W 9:00am–12:00pm **\$173.45**/month (3 hours per day)

Tu/Th 9:00am–12:00pm **\$189.00**/month (3 hours per day)

Junior Kindergarten

This class is for children registered in our Kinderfun and Little Explorers morning program(s) who will go to Kindergarten in September 2024. Can combine to make 9:00am-1:00pm

M/W 11:30am–1:00pm **\$86.75**/month

Tu/Th 11:30am– 1:00pm **\$94.50**/month

Registration for the 2023/2024 school year will be available starting April 4th, 2023 online and in person. April 7th and ongoing, registration is available directly through Preschool Coordinator.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHEN DOES THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM START AND END?

The school year is from September 11, 2023 to June 18, 2024

DOES THE PRESCHOOL EVER CLOSE?

In the event of severe weather conditions, our preschool will close if the Richmond School Board closes the surrounding schools. Parents are advised to check with CKNW 980am or www.cknw.com to see if the schools are closed. When the Richmond School District adopts new statutory holidays, our programs may align with observing the holidays as well.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BRING TO SCHOOL?

Please send in a full extra change of clothing, a healthy nut free snack, water bottle extra change of shoes if wearing boots, and a backpack to carry items. Please label everything that is sent in. Backpack with travel back and forth from home to preschool as we do not have the space to store items. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play.

WHAT ARE THE SNACK POLICIES OF THE PRESCHOOLS?

Children in Kinderfun and Little Explorers are required to bring a nutritious snack each day. Snacks are not to contain peanuts or nuts as we have children with allergies to these in our programs. Children registered in Junior Kindergarten will also need to bring in a healthy nut free lunch. Please send a water bottle for your child.

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.

DO YOU CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS AND CAN I BRING IN TREATS FOR THE GROUP?

We have many different allergies as well as dietary restrictions in each class, because of this we ask that no treats be brought in to share with the class. We understand how exciting birthdays are, so staff will ensure your child's birthday is celebrated during class time.

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

You will need to contact the Ministry of Children and Families affordable Child Care benefit 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 Preschool coordinator a 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, or via the coordinator. 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.

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

WHEN ARE PRESCHOOL FEES TAKEN AND HOW CAN I PAY?

There is a \$50.00 registration fee taken at time of registration. Preschool payments are taken one month in advance and begin the first week August 2023 (for September). There will be no fees charged in June if you are paying one month ahead. Fees will be due at the first of each month. We accept Visa/Master Card/American Express, post dated cheques, or debit at the front desk.

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. Coordinator 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 IF MY CHILD IS SICK/ILL?

Children will not be allowed to attend the program if they are ill. Children are required to have 24 hours symptom free to return to school. Please notify the coordinator in the event of an absence. If your child becomes ill at preschool, you will be called to pick up your child from school.

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.

DO THE CHILDREN GO OUTSIDE IF IT IS RAINING?

Yes. Children will play outside in all types of weather even when it is rainy or snowy. We live in beauty of the west coast, which means we have a limited amount of sunshine filled days.

Children who play outside are healthier, happier and more resilient **“There’s no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes”**. Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather, and has an extra set of clothing.

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

HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT IS GOING AT PRESCHOOL?

A monthly calendar and newsletter will be sent to families highlighting special days and events. Individual photos of each child taking part in daily activities will also be sent a few times a month.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO THE PRESCHOOL STAFF HAVE?

All of our preschool staff are qualified Early Childhood Educators. In addition to Early Childhood Education diplomas, each staff member is also required to hold a valid First-Aid/CPR, and high five training certificate. Staff take part in professional development training during each school year.

WHAT ABOUT SUMMER PRESCHOOL?

Our licenced preschool programs run from September to June. 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.

WAITLISTS?

If a program is full, you will be placed on the waitlist for programs for the current year. Waitlists do not carry over from one school year to the next.

NOTES / QUESTIONS:

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.
604-238-8385 or AOlmstead-Wilcox@richmond.ca

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