

# Welcome to the MFRC's 3 to 5 Year Old Program



## Parent Handbook

**Colwood Pacific Activity Centre  
2610 Rosebank Road (250)363-2640**



## Welcome

The MFRC's 3 to 5 year old program has been open since 2002. We serve children and families of full-time Canadian Armed Forces members living in the Victoria area. Our program is licensed through Island Health and we offer full-time care, age-appropriate activities, outdoor play and preschool programming.

## Vision Statement

Our vision statement is to provide a welcoming, nurturing and inclusive environment where children grow and explore while families feel appreciated and supported within the military community.

## Philosophy

The MFRC's 3 to 5 year old Program is based on providing a child-centered approach to care, taking the individual needs of each child and family into account.

All educators will promote a partnership with parents to ensure consistent and respectful care for each child. Educators will work with you to provide consistent care for your child and to build a trusting, reciprocal relationship with you that is based on open communication. Our objectives are to assist children to develop at their own rate in a safe, nurturing, supportive and respectful environment.

Additionally, care will be provided that is age-appropriate and play-based across various environments that stimulate curiosity, independence and positive emotional and social development.

We believe that all behaviours present an opportunity to learn. Very young children need guidance in learning socially acceptable behaviour. We try to use each situation to explain feelings, encourage empathy and model alternate solutions. By setting clear and consistent limits, following through, intercepting inappropriate behaviour, and explaining the reasons for the limits, we work with the children to gain confidence and learn to acquire social problem-solving skills.

The program has an open-door policy, which means parents/guardians are welcome to visit any time of the day. When visiting your child, we encourage you to participate in your child's care, routine and activities. All educators deliver programming that encompasses best practices found within the Early Childhood Education (ECE) sector and provide individual and flexible care as needed. Also, all staff are familiar with implementing additional support when required regarding lifestyle challenges such as deployment and relocation.

We pride ourselves on providing a diverse and inclusive setting. ***All children are welcome in various activities and care options are available in our Children's services program.*** Activities and programs provided to our community will strive to include all children to participate to their fullest extent. *(Please see Inclusion Statement below)*

## **Operational Procedures & Guidelines**

### **Hours of Operation**

The daycare centre is open from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday to Friday except for statutory holidays and staff professional development days (please see *Key Dates* document). We would appreciate a phone call if your child will be late. Educators must be notified if your child is going to be absent and if the reason for the absence is health related.

### **Gradual Entry**

Gradual entry into a new environment in the company of a parent/guardian is very important for some children. This is necessary to allow trust to develop between the educator, the parent/guardian and your child. Parents/guardians must set up a meeting with the Child Care Supervisor before the child starts coming to the centre in order to discuss a gradual entry plan. This meeting must take place at the centre during operating hours. Please make an appointment as soon as possible.

### **Daily Arrival and Departure**

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to sign their child in and out of the centre each day. This is set up for the safety of the children and is also a Licensing requirement.

The sign in/out sheet is used as an attendance record in emergencies and to plan staffing needs.

Only those persons whose names appear on the registration form or the alternate contact list may pick up children from the centre. Parents/guardians may, however, notify the educators of any changes. All persons, other than the parents/guardians, must provide identification when picking up a child. The child's parents/guardians must document the change in the sign-in/out sheet provided and inform an educator. Besides signing the book, please inform an educator when arriving with your child and again when leaving. Good-byes need to be said inside the childcare areas.

### **Things to Check Daily**

*Parent Information Board and Calendar:* These are set up in the classroom areas. Upcoming events and information you should know about will be posted here.

*Art File:* Your child's artwork will be placed in file folders found in the classroom area. Please make sure this file is checked regularly.

*Cubbies:* Documents which are considered personal will be sealed and attached to your child's cubby.

### **Clothing and Items Needed for Daycare**

The 3 to 5 year old program includes indoor as well as outside play in most weather conditions. Please ensure your child has the following items at the centre (some items are seasonal):

- Muddy buddy (splash pants) or rain gear
- Boots
- Winter hat and sun hat
- Sunscreen
- Bathing Suit & Towel
- 2 complete changes of clothing (including socks)
- Up-to-date picture of your child
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Blanket and small cuddly
- Diapers or pull-ups and wipes – please note that we request parents to provide refill packages of wipes and rotate through the packages provided rather than having various containers open at the same time.
- We accept cloth diapers and will exchange them daily

We ask that you send your child in comfortable, washable clothing, as we get very busy and messy while exploring our environment. We also ask that you frequently check your child's cubby to replace clothing or take home when soiled.

### **Play Items from home**

We kindly ask parents/guardians to assist their children with keeping toys and other personal items at home. In our experience, toys become lost or have the potential to cause conflicts among children.

## **Nap and Rest Time**

Nap and rest times are appropriate and necessary for children. Children need rest times to help them relax and unwind from their busy, morning schedule. This rest time enables them to have a more positive afternoon, reenergize for the remainder of their day and be happier at home at the end of the day or evening. We do not “enforce” a set nap time, but children are generally encouraged to try to nap after lunch. If your child no longer naps, they will be provided with quiet activities to do on their mat while the other children nap.

We kindly ask parents/guardians to supply one each of a light blanket and cuddly for their child. Each child will have their own mat and sheet provided by the centre. The children may sleep until 2:30 pm; total nap or rest time is dependent on what time they fall asleep after lunch.

## **Toilet Training**

Toilet training depends on a child’s physical development, communication skills and their willingness to try. There is always a potty and child toilet seat cover in the bathroom so that a child can become familiar with its use. During diapering times, children are always asked whether they would like to use the potty or toilet but are never forced to do so.

With toilet training, please remember to leave as many changes of clothes as required for the entire day and please label the package of your child’s diapers.

Parents need to be mindful that various factors may affect a child’s readiness for learning toilet training for example: illness, stress of any kind, a new baby, changes in lifestyle at home, or parental absences, etc. Regressions may also occur with any type of stress.

## **Parent/Guardian Participation**

Parents/guardians may be invited to attend events during the year to allow time to:

- Discuss policies and issues of concern to parents/guardians
- Acknowledge the work of educators, volunteers, and parents in support of the program
- Provide an informal social opportunity for parents to network with each other and educators

Should a family need to discuss personal issues or concerns, please feel free to approach an educator or an appointment may be set up at any time with the Child Care Supervisor or Children’s Services Coordinator.

## Absence

Please inform an educator by 9:00 a.m. if your child will not be attending the centre on a particular day. It would also be appreciated if the date of return and reason for an absence, especially if health related, are given.

## Late Pick-up Fees Policy

Parents/guardians agree to pay a late charge of \$15.00 per hour, or part thereof, after the scheduled closing of the daycare centre should they arrive late when picking up their child. (In determining the correct time, the educator on duty will go by the clock in the room). Parents/guardians are responsible for making alternate arrangements for someone to pick up your child if you are late.

### Procedure:

If alternate arrangements are not made the staff procedure is as follows:

1. Fifteen (15) minutes following the closure of the daycare centre, educators will try to reach the parents/guardians at all provided phone numbers.
2. If unable to reach a parent/guardian; those authorized on registration forms as an “Alternate Pick-up” will be called. A message will be left for the parent/guardian at the home phone number regarding what arrangements have been made.
3. If unable to reach an authorized “Alternate Pick-up”, those listed “In Case Of Emergency” will be called. A message will be left for the parent/guardian at the home phone number regarding what arrangements have been made.
4. One (1) hour following the closure of the daycare centre, if parents/guardians have not made contact and an alternate or emergency pick-up has not been arranged, an educator will contact their immediate supervisor who will contact the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). A message will be left for parents/guardians at their home phone number regarding what arrangements have been made. During office hours (8:30 – 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday) , parents/guardians may contact the local MCFD office located at the:

**West Shore Family Services 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**, 345 Wale Road, Victoria, BC  
**V9B 6X2** 250- 391-2223. To contact MCFD’s emergency and after office  
(hours), call the 24-hour line at 1-800-663-9122

5. MFRC Staff and all citizens have a legal, **Duty to Report** suspected child abuse, neglect or any concern about a child’s safety and well-being to MCFD as stipulated in the Child, Family and Community Service Act. *See Staff*

*Qualifications section for additional information regarding Duty to Report and Child welfare concerns.*

## **Financial**

The first month's fee is required upon registration. This fee is refundable up to 30 days before your child's program start date.

Childcare is offered by the calendar month, beginning on the first day of each month. The current monthly fee is based on 9 hours of childcare per day.

**Fees are due in full and in advance by the first of every month.** Please note that there may be changes in fees from time to time with due notice. The MFRC agrees to give six weeks' notice of any fee changes.

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that all subsidy authorizations are in place before enrolment and all approval forms are placed in your child's file. If subsidized, the parent agrees to pay the full amount of childcare fees when the subsidy expires. The parent portion of fees is required in full and by the first of every month.

To maintain a childcare space, full monthly fees must be paid for any period when children are away from the centre, including vacation, statutory holidays, sickness or other absences. No refunds will be given for these absences. The parent/guardian is not permitted to sublet their child's position for any reason.

**Failure to pay childcare fees by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month or make alternate payment arrangements with the Office Administrator may result in a notice of cancellation of childcare services provided by the MFRC.**

Parents/guardians agree to give one calendar month's notice, in writing, to the MFRC daycare centre by the last day of the month, one month before leaving. For example, notice by March 31st for May 1st. Licensing regulations with Island Health require that your child withdraw from daycare when they have reached the licensed group-care age maximum for this centre.

The MFRC Daycare will give six weeks written notice to parents/guardians if we are no longer able to provide services to your child(ren).

All fees paid to the MFRC are tax deductible. *Please ensure that you keep your receipts as there is a charge to reprint receipts.*



## Health Policy

There are many factors involved in ensuring a child's optimum growth and development; good health is a particularly important one. Children who are ill require a relaxed atmosphere and more individual attention than the Centre can provide.

When choosing "group" care, parents/guardians must realize they will be restricted in the use of the daycare if their child is sick. In a daycare centre, illnesses travel fast. If your child is sick or not feeling well, please refrain from bringing him/her to daycare until they are well again. Keep in mind the children attending daycare are expected to participate in a variety of play experiences.

It is understood that keeping a sick child home can mean a parent might miss valuable work hours. Please consider what your options are for alternate care if it is difficult for you to leave your work.

If a child requires medication to be administered, *Permission to Administer Medication* form will be provided whereby written authorization must be given by a parent/guardian. This permits and provides educators with the necessary information to administer any medication. Educators will only dispense medication(s) listed on this form which is to be filled out completely and precisely. An educator will insist that you get your physician's approval:

- if you wish the dosage to be given to your child to be different than the one indicated on the package, or
- if there is a concern about the number of consecutive days and times your child receives a particular medication.

We must ensure that all precautions are taken with the children in our care.

If your child becomes ill during the day, we will contact either parent/guardian right away. If we cannot reach you, the alternate person(s) on the registration form will be contacted to ensure that your child receives prompt, appropriate medical attention.

Educators have the right to refuse admission to a child who appears to be too ill to attend daycare. If your child cannot participate in our daily program (i.e. outside play, group activities etc.) then he/she is not permitted at daycare. We ask you to respect the educator's decision when asked to pick up your child due to illness. Our concern is to provide a healthy, safe environment for all children to enjoy.

**Please note, that the criteria for exclusion listed on the following page are recommended by the Vancouver Island Health Authority. These criteria may differ in some respects from your physician's opinion, primarily because these criteria are designed for children participating in group care.**

## CONDITIONS FOR CHILDREN TO BE EXCLUDED FROM DAYCARE

- **Acute cold:** Contagious with obvious discharge of infected green, yellow or reddish brown mucus – return when discharge has subsided.
- **Cough:** 3-5 times per hour, especially if choking and/or vomiting accompanies the cough. Child may return when the coughing has subsided.
- **Fever:** 38<sup>0</sup>C (100.4F) or over – may return when fever has remained at 37<sup>0</sup> (98.6F) for 24 hours without the aid of medication, and the child has not developed a secondary infection.
- **Vomiting:** Return after 24 hours of last bout of sickness.
- **Diarrhea:** Must be symptom-free for 24 hours and have had one solid bowel movement.
- **Antibiotic:** Return after 24 hours since first taken.
- **Infected skin or eyes:** A doctor must examine undiagnosed skin irritations, and medical clearance for return is obtained. Conjunctivitis (pink eye) is very contagious and must be treated and eyes clear before the child may return.
- **Earaches and Infections:** Because VIHA says untreated ear infections can lead to hearing loss and are potentially infectious, we require children to see a doctor for direction and ask that children stay home for a minimum of 24 hours with or without antibiotic medication. This allows for the children to be monitored and assessed. Children may return when symptoms such as fever and ear tugging have subsided.
- **Lice:** A child may return once he/she has been treated with an effective treatment and **all lice and nits** have been combed or picked out of hair. Follow-up shampooing must be administered to complete treatment.
- **Communicable Diseases:** Communicable diseases such as chicken pox and measles must be reported to the Daycare educators as soon as they are diagnosed. The duration of the child's treatment and exclusion from daycare will depend on VIHA's Communicable Disease recommendations which educators will be able to provide.

## **Allergies**

Please inform the educators of any food allergies that your child has. Educators must be notified in writing if your child has food allergies including symptoms resulting from the allergy and any remedies and precautions that need to be taken.

**Please note our policy regarding allergies which may restrict certain food products at the centre such as nuts and tree nuts. We will inform you if it is required for us to enforce that policy due to a child's severe allergy that could be life-threatening including anaphylactic reactions.**

## **Continuation to other MFRC Programs**

You will be placed on our current waitlist for each program according to your child's age and we will only be able to confirm your registration if space is available in that program (i.e. from 3 to 5 Daycare to Out of School Care).

Parents/guardians who wish their children to continue to the Out of School Care need to register for this program. A waitlist is kept, and you will be informed where you are on this list and when a vacancy is available. Priority for enrollment is made according to the initial date your child enrolled with the MFRC childcare programs.

## **Inclement Weather**

Children will spend time outdoors daily and will participate in activities during sunny and rainy weather; appropriate clothing is greatly appreciated. Extreme weather conditions such as intense cold or heat will be monitored by educators and any necessary precautions taken (as directed by VIHA).

The 3 to 5 year old classroom will remain open during most periods of perceived inclement weather. Given the mild climate of Victoria, it is unlikely that extreme weather/temperature fluctuations will occur. However, in the event of extreme weather conditions, the MFRC and CFB Esquimalt reserve the right to close the daycare. Every effort will be made to contact parents/guardians. Closure of the childcare programs may happen during power outages due to lack of light and heat.

## **Emergency Procedures**

Child Care Licensing Regulations require all licensed group daycares to post and practice monthly fire drills. These fire drills are posted in the Children's Services Coordinator's office.

In case of an emergency such as a fire or earthquake, children will be evacuated from the daycare and parents/guardians will be contacted. If practical, the children will

remain as close to the centre as possible for a maximum of two hours as parents would most naturally come straight to the daycare. After the 2 hours, our staff will bring the children to the nearest Community Emergency Centre (CEC), please listen to the local radio station (CFAX-1070) to find out the location of the closest CEC (e.g. Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre). Please Note: The MFRC's emergency plan may be changed as the situation develops. Every possible effort will be made to properly inform parents of where they can pick up their child if plans change due to uncontrollable circumstances.

If it is not possible to leave the building, all staff will assist the children in any manner required, for example administering first aid, providing comfort or emotional support during an emergency.

### **Base Emergencies**

Parents/guardians should be aware that if there is a base emergency, the Department of National Defence (DND) has priority over the building and may need access to the CPAC location and its amenities. During such emergencies, all operations and programs may temporarily close until further notice and clearance is given by the base. Every effort will be made to contact parents/guardians of a closure at CPAC or a cessation of programs such as the childcare centre(s).

### **Family Care Plan**

All Regular Force and Primary Reserve members are responsible for ensuring that they have a *Family Care Plan* (DAOD 5044-1) in place to accommodate deployments and emergencies. Having a Family Care Plan ensures that members have decided on childcare in preparation for situations in which they will need to be absent for duty reasons. When developing your Family Care Plan Declaration it is essential to consider all of the possible scenarios in which you could be absent for duty reasons. These could include emergency callouts, domestic and international operational deployment, training and short-term duty requirements even Daycare Closure.

Fill out your Family Care Plan Declaration and return it to your unit. If you require help to develop your family care plan, contact the MFRC for assistance.

## **Staff Qualifications and Philosophy Statements**

### **Staff Qualifications**

All educators, including the Child Care Supervisor, have post-secondary training in Early Childhood Education and must certify periodically with MCFD's Early Childhood Educator Registry. Additionally, all educators have current First Aid and CPR training and have completed a Criminal Record Check. The Children's Services Coordinator and Child Care Supervisor have additional skills and educational requirements.

### **Military Lifestyle Awareness**

All educators are familiar with unique aspects associated with the military lifestyle, for example, deployment and relocation, and how these features can affect our children and families. At the time of hire, all educators are expected to review the online tool "Caring for the Military Child". This is an interactive presentation designed to give educators tools and information to help children from military families cope with unique lifestyle challenges, such as deployment and relocation.

Parents/guardians who are experiencing deployment may also find the MFRC's deployment workshops for children useful during these times of transition. Please speak with an educator or the supervisor to obtain additional information.

### **Practicum Students, Volunteers and Substitute Educators**

Occasionally, practicum students, volunteers and substitute educators will be involved in your child's program. Parents/guardians are encouraged to consult with the regular classroom educators if any questions or concerns arise regarding students or temporary staffing.

Parents/guardians will be informed as necessary when a substitute educator is employed when a regular educator is absent for more than two consecutive weeks. Additionally, substitute educators will also be employed when a regular staff member is unavailable due to holidays, illness or bereavement.

Practicum students and volunteers are never unsupervised with the children in our programs and are not counted in our staffing-to-child ratios of care. Completed criminal record checks are also required by students and volunteers.

All educators are familiar with circumstances that require them to report child abuse, neglect or any concerns about a child's safety and well-being as mandated by law. Staff or parents who have additional child welfare concerns should download or obtain a

copy of BC's *Responding to Child Welfare Concerns. Your Role in Knowing When and What to Report and the Child, Family and Community Service Act of BC.*

Additionally, staff or concerned citizens can contact the **Children's Helpline at 310-1234**, (no area code required) regarding suspected child abuse, neglect or if a child's safety appears compromised.

### **Nutrition Statement**

Parents/guardians are responsible for providing nutritious lunches daily and both a morning and an afternoon snack for their child. The only beverage we will provide is water.

The space in our refrigerator is very limited; for this reason, we appreciate a lunch box, water bottle and thermos.

It is not uncommon that 3 to 5 year olds often require extra food for those times when your child may have dropped their food, has decided they do not want what was sent for their meals or snacks that day, or if they are going through a growth spurt and require more food. Please send a few extra packaged snacks for such occasions.

We strongly believe in a well-balanced, nutritious lifestyle and encourage families to do the same. Please ensure that your child has healthy food and drink according to *Canada's Food Guide*, which promotes healthy eating and nutritional habits. Please ensure that your child has sufficient quantity and quality of food and drink to meet the developmental needs regarding a child's age, the number of hours the child is in care and the child's food preferences and cultural background. We also strongly believe and support a child's choice in determining what they eat. If you need any suggestions regarding these guidelines, our educators can help you with choosing healthy options.

Regarding special occasions such as birthdays or holidays, please check with the childcare supervisor or an educator about some ideas and options to promote healthy eating habits for special days.

**Please note: Do not send hard candy, gum, nuts, tree nuts, potato chips or chocolate bars to daycare. Some of these items are also choking hazards.**

### **Communication with Families**

We strive to build strong, respectful and reciprocal relationships through open communication with our families. These relationships are maintained and enhanced as required and begin with informal conversations daily about the well-being of your child, within a private milieu, for example, outside his/her hearing. Other mediums of communication are used as necessary, for example, telephone, email or a scheduled

meeting with the coordinator and or supervisor. To assist the educators with providing the optimum support needed, informing the educators of any changes at home, for example, deployment will provide us with information to modify a child's programming at the centre.

It is not uncommon for 3 to 5 year olds to occasionally be limited in various developmental skills. If parents /guardians are concerned about their child's development, records can be kept for reference so you may know how your child's day went. These records can include, for example, verbal skills, naps, nutrition intake, sunscreen application, toileting, and general observations. A weekly summary of the children's activities can also be provided. Please request one of the educators.

We expect families to treat educators and MFRC staff with mutual respect. The MFRC will not under any circumstance tolerate verbal or physical abuse from anyone partaking in MFRC programs.

### **Guidance and Discipline**

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Guidance and discipline are always approached positively and respectfully at the centre. Any interventions implemented, whether formal or informal, consider opportunities for children to learn self-regulation skills, are age appropriate and promote supportive problem-solving skills. All supports cultivate nurturing, responsive behaviour change through conversation, modelling and providing positive feedback and reinforcement.

Additionally, our educators use suggestions associated with the Positive Behavior Support Teaching Pyramid or PBS as recommended by VIHA's Supported Child Development. All educators receive training in PBS methods and are expected to implement these strategies when assisting children with overcoming difficulties or modifying behaviours. The underlying principles of PBS support the idea that educators need to understand "why" a child presents with challenging behaviour and learn to focus on teaching new skills to reduce or replace undesirable behaviours.

All supports associated with any concepts about guidance and discipline must be in keeping with requirements and principles associated with the Child Care Licensing Regulations and the BC Child Care Act. The safety and well-being of children receiving care is of paramount importance.

In addition, the MFRC has the following Policies:

- Children in care occasionally require individualized, behaviour management supports that meet a child's unique needs.
- Educators will use positive methods and approaches to managing behaviour. The educators will teach children strategies to self-regulate their emotions by helping them identify their feelings and model coping and calming techniques

such as deep breathing. Other strategies typically include setting clear and direct limits, using redirection, acknowledging feelings and encouraging children to “use their words”.

- Educators may, when age-appropriate, assist children in resolving conflict by discussing the behaviour with the children immediately following the incident.
- The MFRC **does not** permit the use of physical (including striking a child, shaking, shoving, spanking or any other forms of aggressive physical contact), emotional (including harsh, humiliating, belittling, threatening or degrading responses of any form) or psychological discipline of any child (including confinement of/or isolation of child) and **will not** tolerate a parent who chooses these approaches in our setting.
- Food is not withheld as a consequence for inappropriate behaviour; nor is it offered to reinforce positive behaviour; food is not used as a reward for completing a task or finishing a meal.
- Occasionally, parents/guardians will be asked to sign incident reports when they occur.

For any child requiring additional behaviour management or positive support, educators will request a meeting with parents/guardians to find solutions that are created collaboratively. A Child Care Plan must also be drafted listing goals with interventions required to assist a child who requires additional support. This document is required by Licensing. Suggestions for community resources can also be made as needed.

Should a child’s behaviour cause continual disruption, the child may be asked to leave the program for a select period or permanently. The decision to terminate care for a child would be made by the Children’s Services Coordinator due to concerns about the health and safety of the child, other children in care and/or educators.

### **Inclusion Statement**

The MFRC Daycare accepts and welcomes children of all abilities. Our educators recognize that all children may have unique, cultural or special needs. We believe that all individuals deserve an environment and experiences that promote growth in all areas of their development. Using a strength-based approach, our programs and services endeavour to provide for the inclusion of individuals who require additional support because of a physical, cognitive, social or emotional need.

Educators at Esquimalt MFRC childcare programs strive to accommodate needs and promote an inclusive environment. The extent to which we can support specialized inclusive care in our licensed programs is dependent upon the situation, our resources, staffing, training and community partnerships.

Research indicates the proportion of children with disabilities in childcare is 10-15%; this is consistent with occurrences in the general population. Therefore, it is our goal to



provide an inclusive childcare program with developmentally appropriate group experiences for all children; early childhood educators will be involved and work with all children.

Upon enrollment, if known, please inform the Children's Coordinator or another designated staff of your child's specific, extra needs or an actual diagnosis if determined by health officials. In the case where a child who requires extra supports is starting in the program, a meeting will be required with the family (including the child), the Coordinator and/or the Daycare Supervisor prior to the child's enrollment. This meeting will help to ensure the program is the best fit for the child; providing an exchange of information and knowledge which will include us learning about your child; expectations, involvement with external professionals, our program philosophy, goals and curriculum, and a Centre tour. The information gathered will assist the Early Childhood Educators to ensure the child is fully included in the program. We will also assist you with developing a developmental or individual plan specific to support any required needs. This document is required by licensing officers as delegated in the Child Care Licensing Regulations.

It is important to note that internal funding through the MFRC is not available to provide one-on-one care to individual children with disabilities. We recognize that behaviours and need for support can be observed during or long after a child has started with MFRC childcare program. If this should be the case, the above process would apply to these developments. Parents must fully participate in these processes.

In partnership with parents and external funding, the staff team collaborates with many external professionals (Early Interventionists, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists etc.) to work directly with children within the classroom.

### **Why we play! Activities and Outdoor Play**

Children benefit greatly from time spent outdoors, and we provide opportunities for this each day. Outdoor play offers children unique opportunities for learning about various activities and the environment that cannot always be obtained from being indoors. Additionally, outdoor play enhances gross motor play, which is part of promoting healthy body development and coordination. Outdoor play may also involve "getting dirty or a bit wet." Please provide appropriate clothing for this. Both Daycare programs aim to have a minimum of 60 minutes of active outdoor play. Most days we can exceed this amount by playing outside both mornings (between 9:30-11:30am) and afternoons (between 3:00-5:00pm), occasionally having our active play in the gymnasium.

Occasionally, trips to local areas typically accessed by walking may occur, for example, to the beach or local library. Parents will be informed before these trips.

The 3 to 5 year olds have a separate playground from the younger children to provide a safe, stimulating, age-appropriate environment. Activities and outdoor equipment are rotated and adjusted by theme or season.

It is important to note that we have a zero-screen policy in our childcare programs. Children will not have access to television or any other form of screen time, including tablets and other mobile devices.

### **Physical Environment**

The physical, indoor environment is typically made up of a classroom and a gym. Most of the time is spent in the classroom given activities found within this environment support many of the typical learning and play development of a 3 to 5 year old. Activities and educational materials support many developmental areas associated with cognitive, fine motor, emotional and daily life skills. All activities offered promote positive peer interactions and individual skills that are educator-directed and occur during free play.

### **Kindergarten Readiness**

Our educators are mindful of supporting children entering kindergarten in the regular school system. Many of the preschool activities available in the childcare setting support and encourage curiosity, problem-solving, peer development and self-regulation skills. These developmental attributes encourage and are required for more formalized or academic learning in a public-school environment.

The educators or Child Care Supervisor will discuss any concerns you may have or direct you to other community supports if you feel are required. Additionally, our educators can discuss with you typical milestones associated with 3 to 5 year olds.

### **Your Feedback**

We welcome your feedback on our programs and services and will ask for your support during our formal evaluation processes throughout the year. We also appreciate any informal and constructive feedback you would like to offer to the Daycare Supervisor or Children's Services Coordinator.

### **Formal Evaluation**

You will be invited to participate in the Family Resource Program online survey annually. Additionally, a meeting between you and your child's educator will be scheduled to allow you to learn more about your child's care and provide us with input.

## **References /Resources**

**PLASP Child Care Services**

**Vancouver Island Health Authority/Island Health (VIHA)-Ministry of Health(MOH)**

**Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)**

**Interior Health Authority; “Healthy Celebrations for Child Care”**

**The Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Teaching Pyramid**

**Kinnikinnik Child Care Centre Parent Handout**