 Preschool Handbook

MC900155356[1]**Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre -Who We Are**

Support, Connect, Engage. People Belong, Families are Strong, Neighbours care, Everyone Shares

We are a community based agency that began in 1999 with 6 women meeting together. We have an inviting, non-institutional, barrier free space that is a reflection of the needs, talents and gifts of our neighbours and friends so that it is inclusive, asset supporting and relevant to the whole community.

* To relieve poverty by providing basic amenities - food, education, counselling and clothing.
* To provide parenting education and support
* To provide educational, recreational, and social opportunities for people of all abilities

Participants are asked to contribute a membership fee of $60 a year that is waived for anyone financially unable to pay. Our centre has various programs including: multicultural programs (Spanish, Japanese, Korean, German, Mandarin and South Asian), a food bank, community garden, financial literacy & support, tutoring, parent support group and Child Development Resource Centre. We run infant, family, preschool, school-age and seniors prorgams. We provide free or affordable space to a number of local agencies.

**Philosophy Statement**

This program statement meets the requirements of the Child Care and Early Years Act, incorporates “How Does Learning Happen” and aligns with our agency’s vision of “Support, Connect, Engage”

Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre is a welcoming community that supports self-esteem, family bonds, meaningful relationships, skill development and building community capacity. We believe that all children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious and rich in potential. Our program helps prepare preschoolers and their parents for the transition to full time kindergarten. We believe that children are most successful when they know what to expect, have a sense of belonging in their community, have friends, and strong self-esteem. Children are introduced to classroom routines, social interaction and early math and literacy concepts.

**Relationships**

We support positive and responsive interactions not only among children but also families, caregivers, educators, and our community partners.

***Parents*** -We view families as experts on their children and recognize that they are the first and most powerful influence on children’s learning, development, health and wellbeing. We support families with guidance and community information when requested. We engage families by providing opportunities to share their skills, resources, culture, and experiences. We support family connections by providing on-going communication about the program and the children through seesaw, progress reports, and collaboration meetings with the classroom educators to ensure that each child reaches their full potential. We invite parents in to the classroom for special events throughout the year where they are encouraged to interact with their children, educators, and other preschool families. Family friendships are supported and encouraged.

***Community Partners*** -We involve local community partners in our program and acknowledge that they play an important role at OPNC. We allow these partners to support the children, their families and staff.We call on community partners for assistance.

***Children* –** We greet each child as they arrive and say good bye individually at home time. Our educators use their knowledge of child development and positive reinforcement to support children’s self-esteem, self-regulation and positive interactions in the classroom. Our educators model developmentally appropriate conflict resolution strategies and assist children in developing skills to negotiate, collaborate, communicate, empathize and compromise with others. Teachers take time to listen to and observe children to learn how to respond to their unique way of communicating and to provide meaningful learning opportunities. Please refer to our “Interaction Guideline Policy” for additional information

**Environment**

The atmosphere within the classroom is welcoming, safe, comfortable and a “home away from home” for children, families and community partners. Educators use their knowledge of child development to plan for and create positive learning environments, transitions and experiences where each child’s learning and development are supported. The classroom is divided into interest areas which foster children’s exploration play and inquiry and provide opportunities for child initiated experiences. Materials are accessible, carefully chosen and are open-ended, varied, plentiful and are labelled to promote independence. Our educators view our outdoor environment as an extension of the classroom and incorporate outdoor exploration and play. There are opportunities for both quiet and active play provided within the classroom depending on the individual needs of the children in the program.

**Diversity and Inclusion** Staff understand that there are many different child-rearing practices and are respectful of families’ choices. We support, honour and appreciate cultural diversity. We encourage the sharing of traditions, culture and heritage in the classroom. All children, regardless of challenge, are welcome and accommodated at our program. Our programs are adjusted when needed to ensure that all children are able to fully participate in all aspects of the program. To ensure we have a supportive learning environment no more than two children in our preschool classroom will have a developmental challenge. Individualized support plans with descriptive instructions are put in place and developed with the parent, child, educator and supporting agencies. Details on our requirements for Individual Plans for children with Medical Needs are found in our Health Policy. The Executive Director of OPNC will report to the Board of Directors at least annually on inclusive activities.

**Training**

Aligning with the College of Early Childhood Educators’ Standards of Practice, OPNC is committed to supporting continuous professional development for all its educators, placement students and volunteers. We offer in-house training and support opportunities for educators to participate in external professional development. Please refer to our human resources detailed “Staff Training Policy”

**Health**

At OPNC we recognize that health, safety and nutrition contribute to the well-being and optimal growth of the children and community we serve. We have centre wide policies to ensure all children, families and educators in our program are safe. Please refer to the “Health and Safety” section in our policies and procedures for detailed information.

**Impact Assessment**

Our preschool program is evaluated by our families annually with surveys to ensure we are meeting our goals as well as their needs.

**Program Statement Review**

The Program Statement will be reviewed by educators, students and volunteers prior to interacting with children and anytime the statement is modified. Our annual review checklist and employee performance review ensures expectations are understood and met.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FOUNDATIONS FOR LEARNING** | | |  |
|  | |  |  | |
| **Support** | | **Child Evidence** | **Teacher Support** | |
| Physically Active | | Can kick, throw, catch, balance, hop and jump | Variety of daily physical activity | |
|  | | Enjoys physical activity | Limit extended sedentary activities | |
| Has a sense of self and confidence | | Can draw a person | Support efforts to gain competence & mastery | |
|  | | Is happy, safe, feels included & competent | Listen to child, encourage, engage in conversation, welcome, pay attention to cues and needs. | |
|  | | Feels good about abilities and interests | Recognize and value unique abilities, interests and spirit verbally, & in environment. | |
|  | |  | Be attuned to physical & emotional needs of child and be warm & sensitive | |
|  | |  | Document individual conversations to revisit thoughts and ideas | |
| Able to make choices | | Weighs benefits of a choice | Provide opportunities for choice | |
| Aware of health | | Knowledge of healthy food choice | Healthy snacks | |
|  | | Healthy physical activity & self-care choices | Positive snack experience | |
| Is able to self-regulate | | Using words to express displeasure | Recognize & support self-regulation | |
|  | | Has coping strategies for frustrations |  | |
|  | | Independent in snack, dressing and toileting | Provide time to practice tasks and encourage independence | |
| Takes initiative and tackles challenges | | Child looks to self first for ideas to meet challenges | Facilitate opportunities to take reasonable risks | |
| Explores materials | | Sort, match, compare, graph, classify, estimate | Provide opportunities and learning resources that encourage exploration, questions and curiosity | |
|  | | Can count 1-10 & recognize numbers | Provide open ended materials to match numbers and materials | |
|  | | Knows colours and shapes | Provide open ended colour and shape activities. | |
|  | |  | All spaces & experiences promote play & inquiry that increase awareness and understanding of key concepts including numeracy & literacy development. | |
| Supports in place where needed | | Has supports in place for success | Provide connections to other families and community supports | |
| **Connect** | **Child Evidence** | | **Teacher Support** | |
| Has Empathy for & Values others | Learning to take turns | | Support & encourage positive child interactions | |
|  | Comforts | | Role model positive interactions | |
|  | Beginning ability to recognize, value and respect perspectives of others | | Encourage children to support and rely on each other to develop friendships | |
|  | Connects with the community | | Provide empathy project opportunities | |
|  | Listens to others | | Facilitate successful communication by helping with listening & expression | |
| Connects & engages with others | Initiates, collaborates, engages, plays, creates, negotiates with others | | Take time to connect children to each other and introduce parents to each other. | |
|  | Has meaningful communication & interaction with peers & adults | | Engage in authentic, reciprocal conversations with children | |
|  | Connects with the community | | Invite community members to the centre | |
| Has focused attention | can focus on activity of interest with purpose | | Plan the flow of the day with limited interruptions and transitions to provide for large blocks of time for sustained complex play & inquiry | |
|  | Can listen to a story and teacher lead activities | | Provide engaging group activities that reflect child interests. | |
| **Engage** | | **Child Evidence** | **Teacher Support** | |
| Engages | | Expresses joy and wonder | Explore ideas and provide set up and materials that allow for exploration for all | |
|  | |  | Consider what children are doing with objects to allow for expansion of learning. | |
|  | |  | Design environment to spark curiosity | |
|  | |  | Participate with child as a co-learner | |
| Participates | | Shares culture, traditions, interests, talents | Connect with families to and invite participation and ensure class activities reflect and are relevant to everyday lives | |
|  | |  | Make children's thinking, learning, competence visible to children, families & others | |
| Creative expression | | Comfortable exploring mediums and creating | Provide time, space, materials to encourage expression that reflect capabilities and background | |
|  | |  | Provide open ended, varied, accessible materials. | |
| Literacy skill & competence | | Gains competence in language acquisition | Include language & literacy in all daily activities and spaces | |
|  | | Expresses themselves through language | Provide individual support so all voices are heard | |
|  | | Knows 26 letters and sounds | Provide time, space, materials | |
|  | | Can recognize and print first name | Provide opportunities for learning & assist with pencil grip | |
|  | | Fine motor skills developed | Provide lacing, tracing, cutting activities | |
|  | | Beginning reading | Cultivate love of books, stories & rhymes | |

**Preschool Daily Plan**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Times** | **Morning Program** |  | **Times** | **Afternoon Program** |
| 9:30-9:45  9:40-10:00  10:00-11:00  11:00-11:30  11:30-11:45  11:45-12:00 | Arrival and Hand Washing  Morning Greeting & Opening Circle  Learning Centres & Small Groups  Nutrition Break  Music & Movement  Outdoor Play & Dismissal |  | 1:00-1:10  1:10-1:30  1:30-2:30  2:30-3:00  3:00-3:15  3:15-3:30 | Arrival and Hand Washing  Afternoon Greeting & Opening Circle  Learning Centres & Small Groups  Nutrition Break  Music & Movement  Outdoor Play & Dismissal |

**Licensing & Ratios**

Our Preschool is licensed by the Ministry of Education under the Child Care and Early years Act. Our daycare

license and decal are posted by our door. The ratio is one staff person to every 6 children age 2.5 to 5 years old for a

class size of 12. (If the class size is under 8 then we have one teacher) College and University placement students are not

counted in the ratio and are never left alone with preschool children.

**Fees/ Admission/Discharge – Base Fees**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monthly Rate** | **1 day a week** | **2 days a week** | **3 days a week** | **4 days a week** | **5 days a week** |
| **9:30-noon or 12:45-3:15**  **$35 Registration fee** | **$82.69** | **$125.21** | **$170.10** | **$212.63** | **$255.15** |

Our centre has opted in to the CWELCC ($10 a day) Childcare program. Currently our fees are $12 a day compared to approx. $27 a day on April 1 2022. We expect our fees to move to $10 a day in 2023. Members will receive advanced notification of any fee increases or decreases. We have a one-time base administration fee of $35 at the time of enrolment. We require you to complete a Pre-authorized debit (PAD) agreement form. Authorized deposits are made on the 15th of the month for the preceding month. The same fee is paid each month regardless of holidays, inclement weather or days a child is not in attendance. The monthly fee includes fees for statutory holidays and 2 weeks vcation coverage for staff. The OPNC membership fee is not included in the Preschool fee and can be paid separately if the family wishes to join Drop-In programs. Late pick-ups are charged at $7 per 15 minutes. This late fee is not included in your base fees. All registration forms and Pre-authorized debit (PAD) agreement **must** be completed and signed **before** your child starts. Parents are welcome to stay for a few minutes the first day if needed to ensure their child is settled in to the program. In a case where the family or OPNC do not feel the program meets the family/child's specific needs, every effort will be made to assist you in finding more suitable care. Your child may be withdrawn with 1 months’ notice or fees in lieu. If there are insufficient funds in a member’s account to cover their monthly payment, a cheque for the full amount will be required immediately with an additional $10 fee to cover bank charges.

**Wait List**

We do not have wait list fees. If programs are full your name and phone number will be added to our wait list file in the order they are received. Your information is never given out to anyone but you. You will be called when a space becomes available. If you want to know your place in the wait list please call us.

**Arrival/Departure and Attendance**

Parents are encouraged to have their children ready to join their class on time to benefit fully from the program. Arrival times and departure times are recorded on our attendance sheet for each child at both drop off and pick up. Children can only be picked up by the people listed on the child’s registration form. There is a fee of $7 for every 15 min. after the designated pick-up time. If a parent has not arrived by 15 minutes after the end of program, staff will attempt to contact all the parents listed phone number for home, cell and work. Messages will be left at each phone number. If no parent/caregiver is reached then the emergency contact will be called and emails sent to any email addresses on file for the child. If no contacts have been reached and pick up has not been arranged by parent or emergency contact then Halton Children’s Aid will be called and notified that that we have been unable to reach a parent/caregiver and a child is requiring support. In the event of an emergency at the Centre we will take all children to Chartwell 180 Oak Park Blvd, Oakville ON L6H 0A6 and parents/ caregiver will be notified.

**Holidays & Inclement Weather Closures**

We are closed for all statutory holidays, March Break, Easter Monday, Christmas Break and the last week of August. If

both school boards are closed for inclement weather then we will also be closed. There will be a message posted on our

Facebook page.

**Activities Off Premises**

At times we may go off-site for field trips, and will get parent consent to do so

**Preschool Toilet Learning**

We will work with parents and children to assist with toilet training so that the child moves towards independence. Please have your child go to the washroom before class and send them in pull-ups if needed and clothing that is easy for them to take on and off. Provide an extra set of clothing in the child’s bag in case of accidents

**Parent Issues and Concerns**

Every member of our community has the right to file a complaint with our Preschool and Community Outreach manager,

our Executive Director, the Board of Directors or the Chairperson of the Board. The complaint can be made verbally in

person, over the phone, by email or in writing. Please ensure the complaint is directed to one of the people mentioned

above. The staff and/or board will respond within 24 hours to your concern. If the concern relates to health and safety

then an Incident Report is to be completed which includes steps to be taken to reduce or eliminate future risk. The form

is provided to the Executive Director for review and approval and is provided to the parent for discussion and sign off on

the steps to be taken to address the concern. If the concern is relates to discrimination or harassment then those

policies are to be followed as outlined in that policy. Staff are required to notify the Executive Director of any concerns

or the Board Chairperson. The Executive Director is required to notify the Board Chair of any complaints immediately

and notify the Board at the next meeting. Complaints will be dealt with promptly. In the event that there have been no

complaints in a previous year, the Executive Director is required to report this at a Board Meeting once a year.

**Emergency Management Policies**

Our centre has emergency management policies and procedures. An emergency at our center means an urgent or

pressing situation in which immediate action is required to ensure the safety of children and adults in the center. Staff

are responsible for the safety of the children and will co-ordinate actions between themselves and emergency first

responders. The intent of this plan is to assist staff in responding to emergencies, provide information to family

members concerning emergency planning, and provide a basis for restoration of services. In the event of an emergency

parents will receive an email as soon as possible with details of the emergency and any potential arrangements for pick

up that may be required. If possible a phone call to each family will also be made. A post will be made on social media if

appropriate to explain the emergency, the steps taken, if needed a plan for resuming normal operations and follow up

supports available. In the event of an evacuation a call will be made, an email sent to families and a sign will be put on

the front door with the address for family pick up. Our emergency evacuation location is Chartwell at 180 Oak Park Blvd.

**Prohibited Practices**

Our center must be a safe place for everyone. Therefore hitting, shaking, spanking, kicking, pushing, shoving,

grabbing, biting, squeezing, pinching, humiliating language, yelling, screaming or threatening behaviour are not allowed.

Degrading or harsh treatment that would humiliate, single out or undermine a child’s self- esteem or self-respect is not

permitted. Confining a child in a room, any form of deprivation or corporal punishment is not permitted under any

circumstances. Staff who are in contravention of this will be let go.

All physical contact with a child is done in the presence of other adults. If a child requires comforting, permission is

asked, “Do you need a hug?” If a child initiates contact, staff respond with gentle reassurance. Hold their hand, a pat on

the back or an arm around their shoulders is acceptable caring behaviour. Prolonged contact is discouraged. Any contact

that makes a child uncomfortable will be stopped immediately. No abuse of any child will be accepted, verbal or

otherwise. If a child is harming or intending to harm another child staff will intervene to ensure everyone is safe.

Children will be supported to communicate their needs in a healthy way and to develop their ability to self-regulate.

**Immunization**

Staff will refer families to the Region of Halton for immunization information. Children in our Preschool program must

provide proof of up to date immunization at registration according to the requirements of the Medical Officer of Health.

You may decide because of medical, or religious reasons not to immunize your child. In this case, you will need to

provide an exemption affidavit that you can obtain from Halton Region. Halton Public Health is allowed access to the

health records at our centre to ensure immunizations are kept up to date.

**Injuries**

All scrapes, bruises and cuts that happen at the centre are recorded in the classroom communication book. In un-

parented programs the parent is notified of any injury at pick up time and provided a copy of the incident report. More

serious injuries are dealt with under the Serious Occurrence Policy and parents are notified immediately. All open cuts

or sores are to be covered.

**Children that are Ill**

A child is not to be brought to the centre if they are ill. Please see the Halton Region “periods of exclusion policy” in this manual”. A parent who is unsure if their child should come to the centre should call ahead, call the telehealth line 1-866- 797-0007 and/or visit a doctor. Children will be observed by staff at arrival to ensure they are healthy enough to participate. If a child becomes ill during a parented program the parent will be asked to take them home. If a child becomes ill in an un-parented program the family will be contacted and asked to pick up the child as soon as possible. The centre will make every attempt to separate the ill child from the other children until the parents arrives. In the event of an emergency 911 will be called and the child will be taken to hospital by ambulance with the signed “Emergency Treatment Release Form” that is completed at the time of registration. Parents will be notified of the emergency as soon as possible. Any communicable disease outbreak will be communicated by email or letter to all parents.

**Anaphylactic, Asthma & Allergy Policy**

We are a nut free centre and ask that children and adults who have had peanut butter or peanuts at home wash their

hands and face with soap before coming to the centre. Nuts are not allowed at the centre and signs are posted to that

effect. Parents, must fill out an “Anaphylaxis, Asthma Package” that includes an Individualized Action Plan for their child

with detailed emergency procedures. The information is kept in the program registration binder and posted on the

inside of the cupboard door over the sink, in the classroom and in the fridge. Staff are required to attend Anaphylactic

and Standard First Aid Training that we provide every three years in accordance with the Child Care Early Years Act. The

parent of the child will train staff on the procedures required for their child’s allergy. EpiPen’s or puffers are kept in

the cupboard to the left of the sink in the classroom. Staff must record all dates and times for administering

puffers or Epi-pens on the “Medical Authorization & Administration Record” This policy and the Individualized Action

Plans will be reviewed with staff when the child is enrolled, during hiring and annually by staff/volunteers/students and

a written record kept. We ask that children, parents and staff refrain from using strong perfumes, while in our centre.

We do not use scented toys or strong scented markers.

**Medication**

The staff at OPNC are not permitted to administer any medications to children at the centre. The only exception to this rule are EpiPens and Inhalers. Parents are encouraged to administer any prescribed antibiotics before or after they are at the centre so that there is no medication on the premise.

**Smoking**

Smoking or vaping, handling cigarettes, cigars, or marijuana inside the centre or on our property is not allowed. People

doing so will be asked to leave or stop smoking.

**Cleaning**

We clean the toys on a rotating basis at the centre to ensure that all the toys are cleaned once a month. This is a great volunteer opportunity for parents. Toys are washed in soap and water. We wash mouthed toys daily and do a general tidy up of any mess made that day. In the event of an outbreak toys are washed in 1/9 parts bleach. An “outbreak” is defined as an occurrence where “more than 2 children have vomited or had diarrhea in the last 48 hours”. The preschool toilet seat is wiped after every use with disinfectant wipes. All tables used for food are cleaned with a bleach solution daily. The centre is cleaned daily by staff/volunteers and twice a week by cleaners.

**Periods of Exclusion for Illness as Indicated by the Halton Region Health Department**

Children with the following diseases should remain at home and away from others:

Chickenpox- Until well enough to participate in all activities regardless of the state of the rash.

Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea - until 48 hours after it stops

Fifth’s Disease (Parvovirus) - No exclusion. If the child is well enough to participate in all activities

Head lice or scabies- must have one treatment to return

Hepatitis A -safe to return 7 days after the jaundice began

Impetigo - Until the antibiotic prescribed by a doctor has been taken for at least 1 full day (a full 24 hour cycle).

Measles - For at least 4 days after the rash begins.

Mumps - For at least 5 days after the swollen glands first appear.

Pink-eye, bacterial conjunctivitis - Until antibiotic prescribed by doctor is taken for a full 24 hour cycle.

Ringworm - Until treatment has started.

Rubella (German Measles) - Until at least 7 days after the rash first appears.

Scarlet Fever - Until antibiotic treatment prescribed by a doctor has been taken for 1 full day (a full 24 hour cycle).

Strep Throat - Until antibiotic treatment prescribed by a doctor has been taken for 1 full day (a full 24 hour cycle).

Whooping Cough (pertussis) - Until antibiotic taken for 5 days or 3 weeks from when the cough began without antibiotic.

**SAFETY ISSUES**

The centre meets all the bylaw requirements of the Town of Oakville (zoning, and fire),the requirements of the

Ministry of Education, Province of Ontario and the Halton Region Health Department. Emergency phone numbers

are kept by the phone. Staff have alternate phones in the event internet is down and for use outside.

**Equipment**

Toys are inspected on a rotating basis so that all are cleaned and checked once a month to ensure that all broken

toys are removed from the collection. Tables and chairs are checked daily. Staff ensure any sharp or dangerous office

items are out of reach of children. Care is taken to purchase equipment that is safe, durable, and environmentally

friendly as well as age appropriate.

**Preschool Snack & Food Safety**

If parents must provide food for children in the Preschool Program due to allergies or special diets, they must put the request in writing and clearly label their nut free children’s food containers. Staff will check the food to ensure it meets the centre’s requirements. Children are not permitted to share their food. Food can only be consumed at the snack table. Children will wash their hands before snack. All snack will be provided on a disposable plate or napkin. The centre will provide water in disposable cups. A snack schedule that is for at least two weeks will be posted by the front door for parents. The centre will provide a daily snack that is in keeping with Canada’s Food guide and will include at least two food groups. Water will be available at all times.

**Building Security**

There is a reception desk by the front door where visitors check in. The preschool door has a code lock. The doors have a

chime and sound when they are opened. The back door is to be locked and windows are to be locked shut after use.

**First Aid**

There is always at least one staff on duty with up to date first aid, EpiPen and CPR training. The centre offers a

Standard First Aid & Child CPR course.. A first aid kit and manual is kept in both kitchens and a cold pack is in the

fridge. Any open sores or cuts are to be covered. The first aid kit is checked four times a year to ensure that it has all

items that it requires. All injuries including bruises and scrapes are written in the daily log book for parented programs.

In un-parented programs all injuries are recorded in the daily communication book and an accident/incident form is

completed. If a child needs to go to hospital, and it is not an urgent need requiring an ambulance the parent will be

called to take the child. In the event of an emergency in a parented program the child and parent(s) would be picked up

by ambulance and taken to hospital. In the event of an injury requiring immediate care in an un-parented program the

parent will be called as well as the ambulance.

**Insurance**

Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre has 5 million dollars general liability insurance. Staff and volunteers are not

covered if they act in a negligent manner. Our insurance does not cover personal vehicles.

**Water**

Water in the preschool kitchen is to be turned on and let run for five minutes Monday mornings before the

preschool program starts. Staff are to document the date, time, and location of the flushing with name of the person doing it in the daily log book. Water is to be available for children always. Water sampling is completed between May 1 and October 1 every 3 yrs. and records are kept in the preschool binder for review.

.

**Criminal Reference Checks**

All staff and volunteers over 18 must provide police checks and vulnerable sector screens that are no older than 6 months at the time of hire. We will not hire any staff who have been convicted of sexual interference, child pornography, duty of persons to provide necessaries, murder, or infanticide. We will not hire anyone who has committed an offence that has resulted in the permanent revocation of their membership, certificate or documentation in the regulatory bodies for the following acts:  Child Care and Early Years Act, The Early Childhood Educators Act 2007, the Ontario College of Teachers Act 1996, or the Social Work and Social Service Work Act. An offence declaration must be completed annually by staff and volunteers for the four years between police checks. A verification and Tracking workbook will be updated annually.

**Staff Qualifications**

The Executive Director of Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre has a diploma in Early Childhood Education RECE and in

Community Work with over 30 years’ experience. The Preschool and Community Outreach manager has RECE and a BA in Family & Child Relations. The lead Preschool teacher is an RECE. All staff are eligible to work in Canada, and their references have been checked and they have up to date immunizations, vulnerable screens and police checks. There is always at least one RECE staff in the preschool room. We are committed to supporting our staff with continuous learning as we view our educators as co-learners.

**Preschool Childcare Supervision Policy for Volunteers and Students** Every child in the licensed preschool program will be supervised by an employee of the centre at all times. Direct unsupervised access is not permitted for persons who are not employees of our centre. Supervision is not permitted by people less than 18yrs of age. Placement students or volunteers at the centre are not counted in the staffing ratios in the licensed preschool program. OPNC’s Behaviour Management Policy, Volunteer Policy, Emergency Procedures, Individual Anaphylaxis and Asthma Plans are reviewed by students and volunteers before they assist in the classroom and every year after that. Police checks, vulnerable sector screens and annual offence declarations are required by all volunteers and students.