

Monkey Around Learn Centre Program Statement

Monkey Around Learn Centre is dedicated to providing childcare for families in the surrounding area and emphasizing the importance of each individual child. Our Educators take great pride in closely monitoring the children's changing personality and needs in order to provide them with a caring and nurturing environment. We feel that if children are told each and every day how unique, intelligent and capable they are, they will grow to be happy and productive members of society. The Monkey Around Learn Centre team believes that children should be encouraged to have confidence in themselves and to appreciate each other's uniqueness. It is important that the focus not only be on the children, but on the family as a whole; adjusting the care offered by the Centre to satisfy the growing needs and hectic schedules of today's families. The Learn Centre Educators are dedicated to providing the very best care.

Monkey Around Play & Learn Centre is licensed by the Ministry of Education. Through the Child Care and Early Years Act 2014 (CCEYA), the Ministry of Education issues policy statements regarding programming, and pedagogy in order to guide operators of child care programs. A key feature of the CCEYA is the focus on strengthening child care centres and ensuring the highest quality of care for the children, and families that they service. Monkey Around Play & Learn Centre follows the "How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (2014)" document in regards to each child's daily experiences. This document "is a key component of Ontario's vision for the early years. It demonstrates our commitment to strengthening the quality of early years programs by ensuring these programs are centered on the child and family." (*How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (2014)* p2.)

How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (2014) is organized around four foundations that are important for children to grow and flourish. The four foundations are: Belonging, Well-being, Engagement, and Expression.



- **Belonging** refers to a sense of connectedness to others, an individual's experiences of being valued, of forming relationships with others and making contributions as part of a group, a community, the natural world.
- **Well-being** addresses the importance of physical and mental health and wellness. It incorporates capacities such as self-care, sense of self, and self-regulation skills.
- **Engagement** suggests a state of being involved and focused. When children are able to explore the world around them with their natural curiosity and exuberance, they are fully engaged. Through this type of play and inquiry, they develop skills such as problem solving, creative thinking, and innovating, which are essential for learning and success in school and beyond.
- **Expression** or communication (to be heard, as well as to listen) may take many different forms. Through their bodies, words, and use of materials, children develop capacities for increasingly complex communication. Opportunities to explore materials support creativity, problem solving, and mathematical behaviors. Language-rich environments support growing communication skills, which are foundational for literacy.

The four foundations apply regardless of the children's age, ability, culture, language, geography, or setting. The four foundations are also things the children seek out for themselves, and should not be considered separate elements.

To ensure that all children attending Monkey Around Learn Centre feel like they belong, are well taken care of, are engaged learners, and are able to express themselves in a safe environment, and in order to allow each child to feel that they are competent, capable, and rich in potential, the Monkey Around Learn Centre team will implement the following approaches:

1. The Educators will promote the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of the children. They will do this by providing healthy lunch and snack choices, modeling handwashing methods, and modeling appropriate behavior. They will also discuss Canada's Food Guide with the children, and healthy choices for both nutrition and exercise. They will continuously survey the environment and supervise the children to prevent accident and injuries. All Educators, upon accepting employment in the Learn Centre, will be oriented with respect to lock down procedures, fire drills, and evacuation procedures. As precautionary measures,
 - the main door to the Learn Centre is locked, and remains locked after 9:00am;
 - the classroom doors are closed and locked;
 - the door leading to the outside yard is locked when the yard is not in use; and
 - fire drills and lock down procedures are discussed with the children and practiced monthly.

2. The Learn Centre team will support positive and meaningful interactions among the children, parents, childcare providers and each other. This will be demonstrated by the daily log books that Educators maintain, with details of each child's day. They will also greet parents and children with a smile, asking how the night was and morning has been. At pick-up time, details of the child's day and any challenges that arose will be discussed. Educators will listen to the children with genuine enthusiasm and record and discuss topics of interest, as well as discuss topics of concern. The team of Educators will communicate respectfully and effectively with each other through the communication books in each room, and at the front desk, as well as face to face when entering or leaving a program.
3. The Learn Centre team will encourage children to interact and communicate with each other in a positive manner and support the children's ability to self-regulate. This will be achieved by validating the children's feelings, and encouraging the children to talk to each other about how actions make them feel. They will also provide children with the tools they need to self-regulate and to help recognize when they need a break, by teaching them self-regulation techniques, and ways to calm their bodies (such as breathing techniques and counting methods). The Educators will also act as mediators to help children convey messages to each other while maintaining a respectful, inclusive and safe environment.
4. Children's exploration, play and inquiry will be fostered when the Educators act as co-learners and co-investigators with the children. They will ask open-ended questions, and explore new ways of doing old things. The children will be provided with a variety of toys, manipulatives, and sensory materials. Educators will assist the children in their investigation and inquiry, and help maintain the focus of their play on the interests that have been expressed. They will also adapt activities to the children's capabilities, therefore challenging the children and giving them the tools to scaffold, and expand their abilities.
5. The Educators will provide child initiated and adult supported experiences by listening to the children's interests and following through with the activities and experiments the children are interested in executing. The Educators will also allow the children to be part of the decision making process regarding the routine and activities being followed during the day. Children are confident and capable and as such, Educators will let them take the lead on activities and experiences while offering assistance when needed and keeping them safe.
6. The team of Educators will create a safe and engaging environment (inside and out), with activities, toys and materials that cater to the children's interests. In order to do this, they

will observe and document what the children's interests are. They will also communicate those interests with other Educators in the room, as well as the parents. In addition, they will provide toys and materials that facilitate, foster and expand the children's curiosity about the topics of interest, and provide them with open ended questions and challenges, while documenting their discoveries.

7. Indoor and outdoor play will be incorporated into the children's day, as will active play, rest and quiet time. The Educators will ensure that a schedule is followed throughout the day that allows for two hours of outside time (weather permitting). During outdoor play, the children will be encouraged to take part in organized activities. The Educators will also set up a variety of sensory experiences and manipulatives, ergo using the outdoor play yard as an additional learning centre. When weather and circumstances permit, children will be taken on nature walks and be given the opportunity to explore the outdoors in a safe, controlled environment. Monkey Around Learn Centre also has the unique opportunity for the children attending to use the Play Centre on days where the weather does not permit outdoor play. The Play Centre boasts a Kangaroo Jumper, a climbing structure, slides, a roller rink and many more opportunities for gross motor play. The Educators will supervise the children and support them while they try new activities. They will also incorporate a number of organized activities into the Play Centre experience. In addition to the outdoor and active play, the Educators provide the children with a designated rest period following lunch, as well as the option for quiet times, and quiet activities throughout the day if the child so chooses.
8. Educators will foster the engagement of, and ongoing communication with the parents about the program and about their children. This will be done through a variety of methods such as the daily communication logs, and face to face conversations. Parents will be encouraged to participate in and volunteer with the programs. Monthly newsletters and documentation panels will be used to keep parents apprised of what the children have been doing, as well as any upcoming events, such as fundraisers and Parent Fun days. Parents are also encouraged to provide their input through parent teacher interviews, suggestions via e-mail, and conversations with their child(ren)'s Educators and with the Learn Centre Director.
9. The Learn Centre team will also involve local community partners and allow those partners to support the children, families and their co-workers. Monkey Around Educators will accomplish this by inviting community members in to the programs as special guests to speak to the children, and also taking the children to local parks and splash pads, so they can be out in the community. Information will also be provided to all families in the centre

about upcoming community activities, as well as community services that are offered to families that they may find helpful. This will be done via a “Community Board” in the front lobby. In addition, parents and Educators are encouraged to pass along any additional community activities or supports that they find interesting.

10. Educators will also support each other in continuous professional learning and development. They will do so by encouraging each other to participate in workshops and relevant community meetings. In addition, any workshops or professional development events that the Educators learn of, will be shared through the “Staff Communication Book” and posted on the “Staff Board” in the Centre. Educators will also keep their First Aid and CPR current by renewing them annually.
11. Finally, Educators will document and review the impact of the strategies set out in the previous approaches, on the children in their care, and the families that use the Centre. This will be completed by observing the interaction and reactions of the children and their families as they pertain to the implementation of these approaches. They will use resources and materials suggested and provided by the families, and they will also seek feedback from families regarding the program and their level of satisfaction through face to face conversations and “Exit Interviews”. Additionally, Educators will reflect on the observations and feedback that they collect together during monthly meetings.

In conclusion, This Program Statement serves as our promise, as the Educators of Monkey Around Learn Centre, to the children in our care, and their families, to the community that we service, and to each other.

In the event that the Learn Centre Director or Supervisor observes, or is made aware of any promises and practices that are not being supported, s/he will address the issue with the Educator in accordance with the Discipline Policy outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

All members of the Learn Centre team have offered their input and opinions in regards to these promises, and the Program Statement as a whole. In addition, Registered Early Childhood Educators have made a commitment to their profession, and hold their Code of Ethics in the highest of standards. All Registered Early Childhood Educators and all Learn Centre Educators at Monkey Around Play & Learn Centre hold themselves accountable, and will abide by the Code of Ethics, the Standards of Practice, and the CCEYA. They will use these resources to guide their practices and their decisions.

The Learn Centre Director will be responsible for ensuring that all new team members understand and agree to the promises and approaches described in this Program Statement. The Learn Centre Director will also ensure that the Program Statement is reviewed annually by the Learn Centre team. Records pertaining to the revision and monitoring of the Program Statement will be kept on file for three years.

Last revised date: November 2, 2016