

Little Red Preschool Parent Agreement

Philosophy

The Little Red Schoolhouse Society bases its actions on the following beliefs:

1. Children have a right to be respected as unique individuals. They are entitled to environments and opportunities that foster emotional, social, cognitive and physical development.
2. Families have the right to be involved in a meaningful way in their child's preschool experience and deserve assurance of quality care programs for their child while they are involved in work, education, other commitments and personal fulfillment.
3. Educators are entitled to a working environment that recognizes and respects their training, skills and commitment to children and support to families. This is demonstrated through respectful communication between staff and families.
4. Preschool programs enhance the lives of children, their families, and the community by providing a caring, supportive, and vital community service.

Guidance

Educators and staff will follow positive guidance strategies which are non-punitive, enabling children to develop self-control, self-confidence and ultimately self-discipline and sensitivity in their interactions with others. This behavioural guidance is appropriate to the age and development of the child. Children's behaviour is influenced by their overall development, environment, and the adults who care for them.

To promote positive behaviour, our educators will use many different strategies for prevention and intervention. Please refer to our Handbook for Families for more details on strategies. For more information on guidance strategies, our educators recommend the booklet, [Guiding Children's Behaviour](#), published by BC Ministry of Health.

Health & Illness Protocol

To keep everyone as healthy as possible, we ask that everyone wash their hands with warm water and soap upon arrival, before joining us in the classroom. Please do not send your child to preschool if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- coughing
- fever
- runny nose (not clear)
- vomiting
- diarrhea

If your child has had fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, all symptoms must have stopped for 24 hours before they can return to school. If your child has had a cold, the runny nose must have stopped or become clear before returning. If your child has pink cheeks, or is pale, has watery eyes, and is lethargic, they may be coming down with something, please consider keeping them home.

Please keep your child at home and advise staff immediately about contagious conditions (ie. lice, scabies, conjunctivitis, whooping cough, chicken pox, etc.)

Healthy Snacks

Please do not include any candy, chips, or pop drinks in your child's lunch. Save the treats for home.

Administering Medication

Teachers can only administer medication that has been authorized in writing (Little Red Medication Authorization Form) by both the physician and the parent. This includes Tylenol, cough syrup, etc.

Forest Discovery

In our program we will spend time outdoors and in the forested provincial park land. Children will play with sticks and rocks, will want to climb hills and navigate roots and uneven ground. There is also the potential for encounters with wildlife. We believe in learning with nature, and supporting children in learning how to assess risks and make smart choices about the risks they take.

Allowing Children Ownership

To help children grow in confidence and capability, we encourage them to take ownership of their being. We will encourage children to try ability-appropriate tasks (such as pulling off shoes, or opening a snack bag) before we step in to help. We will also encourage asking peers for help.

We respect children's decisions about what their bodies are feeling. While we may encourage children to make what we see as appropriate choices, we will allow them the opportunity to decide such things as when they are finished eating, and if they are warm enough to take off their jackets. By being in charge of their bodies, they will be better able to tune into their needs and make positive choices for their own well-being.

Closures and Absences

We are closed for two weeks during the Christmas holidays and 2 weeks at Spring Break. We are closed on statutory holidays. A calendar with all closures will be posted at the school and emailed to families.

Parents are asked to contact Hannah via email at earlylearning@littleredschoolhouse.ca or 250-221-1521 if their child will be absent, or you can leave a message at the school 250-653-4343.

Arrival and Departure

To ensure a child's safety, a parent must personally release their child to a teacher, and sign them in and out of our centre. When picking up your child, the parent must inform the teacher when you are leaving with your child. Children will only be released to people listed on the "Release of a Child Form".

Punctuality is appreciated when dropping off and picking up your child. It is very helpful for your child to arrive on time to be able to join in the welcome circle and other activities.

We encourage your child to attend as many sessions as possible. The routine and consistency of being with the group each class will greatly help their ability to build positive relationships with their educators and peers, and feel confident joining in on the ongoing projects we are working on.

Saying Goodbye

It can be difficult for both parent and child to say goodbye as your child transitions to preschool for the first time. To make drop-offs easier and less stressful for both of you, we encourage short and sweet goodbyes, rather than lengthy transitions.

Withdrawal from Program

If it becomes necessary to withdraw your child from Little Red, families will provide 1 month's notice in writing (email) or pay one month's fee in lieu of notice.

Program Fees

- Program fees: \$265 per month for 10 months Sept to June. As we have opted in to the Parent Fee Relief program, children in our program under 3 years of age will receive a monthly contribution from the government of \$150, and children 3 years and older will receive \$32.80. While this program is in effect, the portion parents will pay \$115/month for children under 3 years, and \$232.20/month for children 3 years and older.
- Program fees have been calculated based on the total number of sessions. Therefore, the monthly fee is the same for every month, regardless of number of sessions in that particular month.
- All fees payable to Little Red Schoolhouse, on the 1st of each month with post dated cheques or e-transfers. Speak with Julie about your payment method.
- Families may be eligible for a government subsidy to reduce program fees. Info at http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/subsidy_promo.htm

What To Bring

Please send a water bottle, healthy snack, extra set of clothing (to be left at the school), indoor shoes/slippers, and outdoor gear as needed (please refer to Handbook for Families). If the weather requires sunscreen, please apply sunscreen prior to drop-off. Please send your children in play clothes that you don't mind getting stained or damaged - we will enjoy paint, clay, mud, sand, glue, markers, and forest adventures every day.

I have read and agree with the above information: (Only one signature is required)

Parent / legal guardian name, printed: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____