



INFANT CURRICULUM STATEMENT

Updated/Approved MELCC:	August 2018	Reviewed:	Aug 2023
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BBE provide an environment that provides learning built upon each individual child's needs. Play spaces and materials are designed to accommodate groups of children and to encourage interaction between the children and caregivers. Separate areas are available for more individual play as well. Staff sit on low chairs or the floor to be at the children's level. This allows them to be accessible to the children; to easily interact, encourage small group play, observe and guide the children. We have low child-sized furniture to encourage children's gross motor development to pull their bodies up and move around the room. The children take the lead and we provide the appropriate guidance dependent upon their present level of knowledge, capabilities and interests.

Building a strong and trusting relationship with staff is a vital aspect of the program. The staff is well aware of children's activities and care giving times as opportunities for teachable moments. Learning is built into all activities, ex: diapering, eating, arrivals, and departures with activities taking place individually and with small groups. We provide a main staff for each child with the children being exposed to consistent staff throughout the day. There are opportunities for free play where staff sits on the floor or low chairs while reading or interacting with the children. Staff take the time to respond respectfully and thoughtfully so infants and young children can learn and thrive.

We provide an area that is safe and healthy for the children to rest/sleep, based on their developmental needs and individual schedule. Each child is provided with their own cot or crib to sleep on.

Toys and loose parts are set out on low shelves that children can reach in containers to allow for open ended play and enable children to make choices. We optimize the children's learning with the use of intentional activities and experiences, focusing on doing at least one activity each day for each child as a way of empowering infants/toddlers and help them feel significant.

We respect the need for children to experience the outdoors and real world by providing opportunities for the children to interact with nature both indoors and outdoors. Opportunity is provided for the older toddlers to visit as a group with the preschool children prior to their advancement into the preschool program.

Each child is encouraged to participate in their own care giving routine with the staff engaging in conversation to label their actions. All the children are encouraged to be part of their own self help skills with them feeding and dressing themselves to their own level of capabilities. Step stools are provided to facilitate children reaching the sink and practice handwashing independently. Utensils and small cups are provided to develop fine motor and self feeding skills.

As the children play and explore, we add toys as needed to expand on their play and foster their interests. Discussion about what they are doing and questions about what they are experiencing takes place. The children are read to individually or in small groups. Songs, finger plays and dancing are common spontaneous activities and can also assist in transitions from one activity to another. The infants are introduced to markers, pencils, paints and crayons along with paper as exposure to colours and markings. These activities offer opportunities to practice eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills. As the children participate in open ended, process oriented activities their imagination, creativity and cognitive processes (such as cause and effect) can develop. The children are encouraged to socialize with their peers and practice sharing materials with an adult's help.

Communication between the parents and staff is done through the use of electronic journals, notes and direct contact with each other at arrival and departure times. Feedback and open communication is valued. Pictures are shared from the center with the family and family pictures are encouraged to be brought in from home. We treat the family as a whole with interest given to all members (siblings, parents, grandparents, all extended family). Children are observed on a daily basis and information is shared with parents and programs may change to meet the needs of the children as they are growing.

Children are exposed to diversity within the center through the use of books, pictures, cultural costumes, play food and discussion about similarities and differences in family activities or family dynamics, Exposure to different languages and cultural celebrations are encouraged amongst the families and facilitators. Parents are encouraged to meet with each other at the annual AGM and volunteering experiences either through field trips or visiting in their child's room at any time.

The program offers children many learning opportunities to grow in all areas of development. The environment promotes learning and successes for the children. Nurturing staff offer activities, guidance and a warm relationship with each child in the program. We strive to connect with families and incorporate their diversity within our program.