

Program Statement

Our Kids Child Care Lambton Inc.

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(Revised April 2024)

Our Kids Child Care Lambton Inc. believes that children are competent, capable, curious and rich in potential.

We believe that play is the fundamental activity of early childhood.

We believe fun and learning are parallel.

When children have a personal investment in their learning, they enjoy their day and they learn and grow naturally.

We believe in providing an environment that fosters active learning, autonomy, security, diversity, and warmth.

Children are recognized and respected as individuals with unique and diverse family values and backgrounds.

Core Values

A- promote the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of the children

Our Kids Child Care provides a clean and safe environment. The children are provided with healthy meals and snacks in accordance with Canada's Food Guide. We meet all requirements with Lambton County's Dine Safe and are inspected by Lambton Public Health. Children have access to drinking water at all times throughout the day. We follow all safety protocols for Fire and Safety, water flushing recommendations from the Ministry of Environment, as well as we provide secure entry within St Matthew Catholic School and their procedures. All staff are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR.

B- support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents, childcare providers and staff

Children need to feel like they belong. As educators, we will support and encourage them as they grow and learn. We will build on their strengths and use this as an opportunity for them to succeed. We listen and respond to the children, parents and staff to make everyone feel welcome and valued.

C- encourage the children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate

Relationships shall be nurturing, loving, secure and positive. Our Kids Child Care promotes healthy child development by emphasizing responsive positive relationships, providing stimulating and age appropriate environments that promote learning through play. Children are encouraged to develop their own sense of self, manage their emotions and self-regulate their behaviours, with the help of their teachers and child care staff.

D- foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry

Play-based learning enables children to investigate, ask questions, solve problems and engage in critical thinking. Educators are responsible for introducing new ideas, experiences and to help the children make sense of their world. Educators also create and maintain the environments for the children to explore and be active participants in their own learning.

E- provide child-initiated and adult supported experiences

A balance of child-initiated and adult-supported experiences will be provided. Children are encouraged to explore their environment, be curious, and have fun while playing. Children are encouraged to ask questions and take part in finding the answers to the questions. Educators are engaged and supportive of each child's needs and developmental stages.

F- plan for and create positive learning environments and experiences in which each child's learning and development will be supported

Positive interactions with families builds positive relationships. By working together, we can focus on your child's strengths and respect individual needs. Families provide us with valuable insight into their child's needs.

G- Incorporate indoor and outdoor play, as well as active play, rest and quiet time into the day, and give consideration to the individual needs of the children receiving care

Learning happens throughout the day, and consists of indoor and outdoor play, meal breaks, rest and quiet time. Our environments are designed to welcome social interactions, problem solving, and creativity. Children are given options and time to play follow their individual interests.

H- foster the engagement of and ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children

Communication is the key. We work together with families to ensure open communication. We communicate thru formal and informal documentations, conversations, surveys, newsletters and social media.

I-Involve local community partners and allow those partners to support the children, their families and staff

Our Centre is inclusive and is supported by Pathways. They provide any additional support thru resource teachers, and/or therapists such as speech, language and other special needs. We also work closely with the school board to ensure consistency for our school age children who have individual school plans. This approach allows us to

J- support staff, or others who interact with the children at the Centre in relation to continuous professional learning

Our educators are committed to continuous professional learning. Educators are encourage to reflect on their learning, plan for their future initiatives, network, and expand their professional learning portfolios. Our staff participate in the Professional Development Days hosted by the County of Lambton, as well as, seeking out Professional Development opportunities on their own. We also assist any staff who is interested in continuing their education to become a Registered Early Childhood Educator.

K- document and review the impact of the strategies set out above on the children and their families

Our Kids Child Care and our educators meet bi-monthly to discuss and strategize our work, practices and reflect on goals for our Centre. During evaluations staff set out objectives they plan to work on throughout the year. These plans are reviewed quarterly. Our staff also complete the National Quality Standards Assessment and make a plan with projected outcomes for the coming year. Keeping up with current, and upcoming changes with Ministry requirements, keeps us informed, and strengthens the profession and commitment to our Families. Our program statement is reviewed annually by the OKCC Board of Directors and staff.