

Region of Waterloo Home Child Care Program & Philosophy Statement

The Region of Waterloo Home Child Care program views children as competent, capable of complex thinking, curious and rich in potential. We strive to ensure all children receive quality child care which promotes healthy, social, emotional, cognitive and physical development. We do this by:

- Assisting parents in choosing care for their children in a supervised home environment that respects all cultures and family values.

Established by:

- Valuing diversity and inclusion across the program
 - Asking parents questions about values and beliefs
 - Sharing information about the caregiver with the parent
 - Promoting strong partnerships between the parent and caregiver
- Supporting and endorsing positive and supportive learning environments in a home based setting which fosters children's exploration, play and inquiry.

Established by:

- Monthly observations at home visits to caregiver homes
 - Providing training opportunities and other resources to consultants and caregivers
 - Providing pedagogical leadership to caregivers to arrange their homes as supportive learning environments
- Encouraging an active partnership between parents, caregivers, children and our program through positive and responsive interactions.

Established by:

- Promoting collaboration between parents, caregivers, children and consultants
- Promoting collaborative relationships between consultants and caregivers during home visits and other contacts
- Consultants available daily for consultation, developing and maintaining positive working relationships

- Identifying children’s individual needs and strengths and assisting families in accessing community resources.

Established by:

- Seeking ongoing information from the parent and caregiver
 - Daily child observations by caregivers, monthly observations by consultants
 - Assisting parents, caregivers and children to access community resources as needed
 - Promoting and supporting a scaffolding approach to children’s learning where children become more independent as they develop new skills
- Involving local community partners when appropriate and allow these partners to support children, families and our agency.

Established by:

- Conducting referrals to other agencies as needed in consultation with the parent and caregiver
 - Conducting case conferences to foster support
 - Organizing joint events with libraries, community centers and other agencies
 - Planning and organizing playgroups to encourage caregiver networking and supportive learning environments
- Encouraging children to interact and communicate in a positive way and supporting their ability to self regulate.

Established by:

- Consultants and caregivers engaging children in conversations that encourage them to understand their feelings
- Consultants and caregivers engaging children in problem solving
- Sharing resources about positive communication and self-regulation with caregivers, parents and children
- Promoting a safe environment to engage children in reflective learning

- Providing indoor and outdoor play as well as active play, rest and quiet time

through a blend of child initiated and adult supported experiences.

Established by:

- Caregivers utilizing outdoor spaces daily (e.g. backyards, parks, walks, trails)
 - Providing a balance of active play, rest and quiet time
 - Engaging children in the planning of activities
 - Consultants exploring options with caregivers to fully utilize their unique home child care space
- Offering resources and providing consultation to caregivers in child development, behaviour guidance, nutrition, health, safety and other child related topics.

Established by:

- Consultants reviewing these items with caregivers during monthly visits to their home
 - Offering workshops and resources on these topics to both consultants and caregivers
 - Referring caregivers, parents and children to other agencies as needed
- Facilitating and encouraging continuous professional learning amongst Home Child caregivers and staff.

Established by:

- Encouraging continuous professional learning for consultants and caregivers, promoting ongoing self reflection
 - Providing conferences, workshops and resources for consultants and caregivers
- Seeking ongoing communication with parents about their children and the program, looking to incorporate feedback into future planning.

Established by:

- Caregivers and consultants communicating with parents on a regular basis regarding their children
- Seeking feedback from parents through conversations and surveys
- Using parent feedback in future planning of the program

- Supporting caregivers to ensure that they continue to meet Home Child Care policies and the Child Care and Early Years Act.

Established by:

- Ongoing communication between consultants and caregivers to confirm they understand requirements
- Monthly visits to homes to document compliance
- Quarterly house inspections completed to ensure further compliance
- Developing policies that support children, parents and caregivers

This Program Statement is reviewed annually by the Home Child Care program. When reviewing the Program Statement, we take into consideration feedback from parents, caregivers and staff. This feedback is received both formally (e.g. surveys) and informally through conversations and observations.

PROHIBITED PRACTICES

The Region of Waterloo wants to ensure each child has a safe and positive experience that promotes their healthy growth and development. Consultants will observe caregiver interactions with children ensuring that they align with our program statement and beliefs in adult-child interactions. The following practices are prohibited at all times in our caregiver's homes:

- Corporal punishment of the child;
- Physical restraint of the child, such as confining the child to a high chair, car seat, stroller or other device for the purposes of discipline or in lieu of supervision, unless the physical restraint is for the purpose of preventing a child from hurting himself, herself or someone else, and is used only as a last resort and only until the risk of injury is no longer imminent;
- Locking the exits of the child care centre or home child care premises for the purpose of confining the child, or confining the child in an area or room without adult supervision, unless such confinement occurs during an emergency and is required as part of the licensee's emergency management policies and procedures;
- Use of harsh or degrading measures or threats or use of derogatory language directed at or used in the presence of a child that would humiliate, shame or frighten the child or undermine his or her self-respect, dignity or self-worth;

- All forms of abuse including physical, psychological, sexual, emotional and verbal.
- Depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing or bedding; or
- Inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will.