

Kiddies Korner Playschool Curriculum

Kiddies Korner Playschool will implement a curriculum based on the ideas presented within the *Play, Participation , & Possibilities: An Early Learning and Childcare Curriculum Framework for Alberta* devised in 2014.

Kiddies Korner Playschool provides **PLAY-BASED** programming. Play allows children to work on, and thus develop social, physical, emotional, creative, and intellectual skills. “Play is an active, exploratory, creative, expressive process deeply embedded in everyday experiences and through which children participate in, learn about, and actively make sense of the world.”

Kiddies Korner Playschool supports each child's development through a **SAFE & CARING ENVIRONMENT** whereby children's vitality, health, sense of belonging, and emotional identity are protected and nurtured. Opportunities for practising movement skills in the gym or outdoors will be provided. Independence is a priority, as children need to be able to take care of themselves especially before they enter kindergarten. Making friends and becoming part of a group promotes self-esteem. Friendship skills can only be achieved once children learn how to control their emotions.

Through play, children will have opportunities to **IMAGINE, CREATE, & PROBLEM-SOLVE**. Pretending to camp at the lake, to work at a grocery store, or to cook at a restaurant are all examples of ways in which children use their imagination and practise what they have observed others doing. Children are encouraged to check out the art center, whereby a variety of materials will be available for creative exploration. The painting easel, block area, and/or group activities provide additional creative outlets. 3- and 4-year-olds are more interested in the creative process; not in the final product. Problem-solving skills develop when children learn how to deal with conflict, how to take care of themselves, and how to overcome frustration.

COMMUNICATION & EARLY LITERACY opportunities prepare children for kindergarten and beyond. Sharing ideas with the group and learning how to properly interact with others is important for social development. Storytime and Circle Time allow children opportunities to practise speech, to work on their comprehension skills, and to rehearse favourite stories, songs, and finger-plays.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY is supported as children learn to respect themselves, others, and their community. At playschool, we strive to help all children feel part of the group. We work on getting along with others, responding appropriately, and developing friendship skills. Taking care of the room and cleaning up are important responsibilities, as well. Opportunities to respect and to explore the outdoors will be

included.

The playschool curriculum will be based on what **INTERESTS** the children, on any **QUESTIONS** that come up, and on **EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES** that we encounter. Through this process, children are able to solve their own problems, investigate new experiences, and create ideas with the guidance of teachers, “Children construct knowledge through first-hand experiences, and through relationships with others and the objects in their environment.” Kiddies Korner Playschool gives children opportunities to discuss and share, to explore and discover, and to create and build.

In order to feel like **PART OF THE COMMUNITY**, Kiddies Korner Playschool intends to engage in opportunities for the children to get to know Hanna and the people within it. Visits to the arena, curling rink, neighbouring parks, the lodge, the library, and Hanna businesses are possible fieldtrips. As well, we will bring in people to share information about their careers or demonstrate their talents.

The teachers at Kiddies Korner Playschool will provide **BEHAVIOURAL GUIDANCE** for all the children within the program. Most negative behaviours occur because children are unaware of the effect the behaviour has on others, and/or does not know how to deal with the situation any other way. Talking about and acknowledging their emotions and other's emotions is important for children to understand the negative or the positive features their actions have produced. As well, the teachers will guide, model, and promote positive ways of dealing with conflicts. Children need to understand how to curb or refrain from inappropriate behaviours, and how to engage in friendships using appropriate actions and responses, especially in conflict situations.



References: Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014). Play, participation, and possibilities: An early learning and childcare curriculum framework for Alberta. Retrieved from www.childcareframework.com

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