

**Prairie Nature Children's Centre**

# **Preschool 2**

## **Program Overview**



# Welcome to Preschool 2

Preschool 2 is a multi-age setting, with children ranging in age between 2-5 years old, including the Kindergarten- Ladybugs. Our play experiences are based on the children's particular needs, interests, or development levels. We often design our program with specific skills or tasks in mind, helping the children to have the opportunity to learn at their own pace. In our profession this is called, "Emergent Curriculum".

Acknowledging the developmental needs of the children, some of the general goals and objectives we have are:

- Encouraging independence in the children to make choices for themselves, when choices are available, in a safe environment.
- Enhancing children's development in the three main areas-cognitive growth, social/emotional growth, and physical growth.
- Providing developmentally stimulating play experiences.
- Allowing children to explore a wide array of natural and interesting materials to provoke curiosity so they may have a better understanding of the world around them.

## **Virtues**

Prairie Nature Children's Centre staff incorporate these virtues in our language with children. Here is a list of the 52 virtues:

assertiveness	diligence	integrity	reliability
caring	enthusiasm	joyfulness	respect
cleanliness	excellence	justice	responsibility
commitment	flexibility	kindness	self-discipline
compassion	forgiveness	love	service
confidence	friendliness	loyalty	tact
consideration	generosity	moderation	thankfulness
cooperation	gentleness	modesty	tolerance
courage	helpfulness	orderliness	trust
courtesy	Honesty	patience	trustworthiness
creativity	Honour	peacefulness	truthfulness
detachment	Humility	perseverance	understanding
determination	Idealism	purposefulness	unity

## **Parent Communication**

We consider ourselves to be an extension of your child's family and hope you feel the same. Besides daily verbal communication with our parents (guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles), we have a communication board outside of the classroom. We would ask that you check it daily. It will have information regarding your child's day and other upcoming events. The Remind App, which sends out text/email, is another tool that we use to keep families informed.

## **Learning Stories**

The Learning Stories Assessment approach is a form of observation and documentation that is written in a narrative story format. The teacher watches and listens as children explore through play. Reading learning stories is a wonderful opportunity to get a snapshot of a child's learning and development for families. A copy of your child's learning story will be made available to you.

## **Microwaves**

Staff will heat up children's lunches, in glass containers, from September to June. During the summer months children may not bring items that need to be heated up because of the many days that we spend away from the centre on field trips.

## **Nature at Prairie Nature Children's Centre**

Our aim is to create an opportunity for children to develop a sense of wonder and appreciation for our natural world and experience the benefits of spending time outdoors. Studies have shown spending meaningful time in nature positively affects children physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively. Our hope is that this connection to nature will develop into a lifelong appreciation of our environment.

At Prairie Nature Children's Centre the children help us to recycle which indeed diverts about one half of our trash from going to the garbage dump. In teaching them this we are hoping that they will grow up to be responsible citizens willing to live in a sustainable and responsible way as citizens of planet Earth.

Nature is becoming a big part of our program and we spend a great deal of time outside. We are learning to enjoy the natural beauty that is all around us even here in an urban environment. We go out rain or shine, sleet or snow. We work (play) and explore in our outdoor environment as much as we can. While outdoors, we catch bugs, jump in the puddles, dance in the rain, and let snowflakes fall on our tongues. In our outdoor playgrounds we have gardening beds that allow us to learn gardening skills in the summer months and harvesting in the fall.

## **Two Weeks Outdoors**

The Two Weeks Outdoors is just as it sounds. We spend two weeks outside in the beautiful Manitoba weather. We take our classroom outside for the whole day during these weeks. We eat, nap, and play outside rain or shine. This could happen in the spring, summer or fall. We will give parents notice on

the weeks that our room has chosen. We ask that the parents prepare their child for this time outdoors by having their backpack stocked up with our list of items we know they will need.



## Inclusion

Prairie Nature Children's Centre is committed to the inclusion of all children (regardless of their needs) into our program. Where additional staffing is required to help include these children into the program, it will always be utilized according to the goals of inclusion, namely:

- Provide as little assistance as is needed to maximize independence and develop self-confidence.
- One-on-one time with a child will not be provided except under very rare conditions.
- Small group learning while in the classroom will be the most frequently used model of teaching those skills that are not easily learned through other methods.
- Every attempt will be made to normalize the child's stay at Prairie Nature Children's Centre. This will include the sharing of any extra tasks, as required, by all staff in the program.

## What to Bring to the Centre

To assist your child(ren) in having comfortable days while at Prairie Nature Children's Centre, please, ensure they have the following items present at day care:

- Diapers – Parents of children who are not toilet trained are responsible for supplying the Centre with disposable diapers, wet wipes and any other supplies necessary for proper diapering.
- Work Clothing – Parents should be aware that older, less valuable clothing, is suggested for Centre use as the children are involved in many activities that may cause clothing to be soiled or, in some cases, stained. Staff will not be responsible for lost or misplaced articles of clothing. Parents should have all clothing labeled. Also children must have an extra set of clothing (everything – e.g. socks, underwear, shirt, pants, shoes) in their locker. Remember: anything can happen! It is an embarrassment to the children when they require a change of clothing and they do not have any available. There will be no lending of clothing, except within families.
- Footwear - each child must wear shoes/slippers at all times in the Centre
- Outerwear - The children go outside on a daily basis (weather permitting). During the wet months (Spring/Fall), children need to have a pair of boots or extra shoes in their locker, so that they are able to have dry footwear indoors and keep the Centre carpets clean. In the winter, all children should have good, warm, winter clothing (snow pants, mitts, hat, scarf and boots). We discourage flip flops. On fieldtrips children must wear runners or closed shoes.
- Lunch for your Child – Parents must supply lunch for their child. Lunches are to be placed in the child's locker. The health inspector suggests an insulated lunch bag/box with a small ice pack next to your child's food as a good precaution against spoiled food. Lunches, as well as any utensils or containers that are sent along, should be labeled. A minimum of \$5.00 will be

charged for each meal the Centre needs to make on occasions that a child's meal is forgotten at home.

Prairie Nature Children's Centre Inc. will not assume responsibility for ill effects of food that are brought in by parents.

Prairie Nature Children's Centre Inc. encourages nutritionally balanced meals following the recommended servings from the Canada Food Guide. Children will not be permitted to have potatoe chips, chocolate bars, candies or pop/ice tea, etc. <https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/>

- Staff will use microwaves to heat up children's lunches, in glass containers, from September to June. During the summer months children may not bring items that need to be heated up because of the many days that we spend away from the centre on field trips.

### **Some Final Reminders**

- Please label all of your child's belongings. We have a great number of children who use our program and many of them have similar items
- If your child requires medication while they are at daycare please ensure their medication form has been filled out.
- If you are entering the building during school hours, you will need to use the buzzer located at the side doors by the playground off Ravelston Ave. The staff will then answer the phone to identifying who you are \*who you are picking up/dropping off. Then they will come to let you in.
  - once you are in the building, you will also need to buzz into the rooms
- We would appreciate it if you could take responsibility, along with your child, for their personal locker space. Check it daily for soiled clothing, artwork or other items that needs to go home. Periodically, you should also do a locker cleaning with your child, in order to keep the locker tidy and presentable.

### **Preschool Two Daily Schedule**

7:00am-7:30am	Children arriving are dropped off in room 18
7:30am-8:30am	Exploration play in the classroom or outside
8:30am-9:00am	Snack Time
9:00am -9:30am	Exploration Play/ Play Experiences/ Bathroom Routine
9:30am-10:15am	Outdoor/ Indoor Invitations to play (pedagogy-reflective teaching)
10:30am-11:30am	Outside time
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch Time and Bathroom Routine
12:30pm-2:30pm	Nap/Rest Time
1:00pm-3:00pm	Non-nappers-free play in the classroom or outside and bathroom routine.
3:00pm-3:30pm	Snack Time
3:30pm-5:00pm	Outdoor Time *Inclement Weather-Indoor Invitations to play (pedagogy-reflective teaching)
5:00pm-5:30pm	Outdoor Play/ Exploration Play in the classroom
5:30pm-5:45pm	Children who are still in attendance will end their day in room 18.

**SIGN YOUR CHILD(REN) IN/OUT DAILY ON THE PARENT CLIPBOARD LOCATED IN ROOM 18**

Prairie Nature Children's Centre's environment is set up to consider the unique needs of each child. We make changes to our daily program so that all children can access areas, materials, and activities in order to promote growth in all areas of his or her development.

## **Philosophy**

At Prairie Nature Children's Centre we believe it is our task to help prepare our children for life. Therefore, we provide an environment designed to facilitate learning experiences that will better help our children deal with themselves and the future.

The future, as we all know, is very unpredictable, however, three things are guaranteed: it will involve change, uncertainty and challenge. In recognition of this, we have set a priority of helping children gain the qualities that will help them survive and thrive in the future. These qualities include Courage, which enables a child to try, fail, and try again; Self-Esteem, which aids children in succeeding at challenges, learning from failures, and taking advantage of future opportunities; Responsibility, which involves making choices and accepting the consequences of those choices; and Cooperation, which helps unlock the magic of team work and the interdependent skills that are so necessary in our society.

Let it be understood that we have no desire to hinder a child's desire or ability to learn in the cognitive (intellectual) area. It is our belief however, that information will be of little interest or help to a child whose emotional, physical or social needs are not being met.

Every facet of the Centre encourages development of the whole person.

### **1. Physical Needs**

Including security, rest, nutrition and adequate movement for health, muscle coordination and ability.

### **2. Emotional Needs**

Fostering the feeling of being loved and teaching respect for both adults and children. We will also help the children to understand their emotions and learn appropriate ways of dealing with them.

### **3. Social Needs**

Developing acceptance by the peer group. First hand experiences with adults and children will facilitate this. The child will be assisted in problem-solving techniques involving interpersonal differences.

### **4. Intellectual Needs**

We will help children enjoy their learning experience. The child will be encouraged to learn to his/her potential.

Prairie Nature Children's Centre is also committed to the inclusion of all children (regardless of their disabilities or needs) into our program. Where additional staffing is required to help include these children into the program, it will always be utilized according to the goals of inclusion, namely:

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