

Preschool Curriculum Statement

Pembina Valley Child Care Centres Inc. – Hive Site provides children with opportunities for play based exploration, experimentation and learning that reflect all the children's interests and support all areas of development. Research shows that young children learn and develop best during play when children can choose who and what to play with and can play for at least 45 – 60 minutes at a time. Our staff support this play, by allowing ample time for play to begin, and opportunities for play to be extended.

These experiences will develop children's social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills through planned as well as spontaneous experiences. Staff observe children during free play and provide play experiences based on the interests of the children, which is then discussed at weekly team meetings so that activities and learning environments can be planned to meet each child's needs.

Our environment enhances children's development by providing an engaging play space and materials that are created and enhanced based on what we see the children are interested in. In our play space we have a variety of learning areas such as daily living area, science/ sensory area, music area, block area. The materials in these areas change with the children's ideas for example: a large box was placed in the daily living area as a tent based on a past camping experience that the children discussed with staff. As the children's play progressed, the staff added lanterns and a fire pit based on the comments of the children. They began singing songs around their campfire, and the tent transformed into a cave, after singing 'going on a bear hunt.'

Our activities also provide opportunities to make each child feel accepted, understood, supported and respected. One example of this is how we foster children's creativity by providing open-ended art materials to allow for self-expression of their own ideas and understanding. The creations are then placed on display throughout the room. We give children opportunities to practice positive interactions to develop relationships. The children can practice independence when they choose playmates, activities, and experiences during our times of free play. Staff ask open-ended questions, get down to the child's level, listen, and have turn taking conversations. Documentation displays with photos are on display on our programs to spark conversations between families and allow the children and staff to reflect on their ideas and experiences. We also send our families photos and information through our Fastoche program, via email and text, to stay up to date with the daily experiences of your children.

We represent community diversity in our curriculum for children to see similarities and differences. For example, we provide play materials such as picture books showing our staff, children, and families. Also, throughout the year, community members come into our Centre to present their careers/professions.

We have predictable yet flexible routines and schedules to provide consistency, stability and independence in the child's life. If children are interested in an activity, lunch may be 10 minutes later to allow the children to complete what they are interested in.

Pembina Valley Child Care Centres Inc. strives to maintain a family-friendly, positive and supportive environment for all children and families. Daily communication between parents and staff occurs at the beginning and end of each child's day to keep parents informed as well as room communication books to record all information from parents to staff. To further build family relationships, we have established yearly parent/child conferences in May. This is an opportunity for us to share the child's growth and development as observed through our documentation.

Pembina Valley Child Care Centres Inc. preschool curriculum will continue to further develop and change with the staff's interest and expertise as well as family and community needs and values.