



## HOME CHILD CARE PROGRAM STATEMENT



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Children thrive when learning through play in stimulating, flexible, and respectful environments. The Home Child Care Program is committed to providing enriched programming using the four foundations embedded in *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*. The four foundations include: Belonging, Well-being, Engagement, and Expression.

These foundations set the goals and expectations for the program while ensuring optimal learning and development for each child. We believe that children are competent, curious, capable of complex thinking and rich in potential.

Approved providers, supported by qualified Home Visitors, provide warm, loving, and safe environments where families are valued and respected. We believe that these home-based programs offer a valuable service to their individual communities by supporting families of children 0-13 years across the District of Parry Sound. The Child Care and Early Years Act guides our regulations, principles, and philosophy.

### **Promote the health, safety, nutrition, and well-being of the children**

The Home Child Care Program staff and providers will promote the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of the children by:

1. Conducting announced and unannounced home visits to each providers premises by the qualified program home visitor and/or the program supervisor to monitor compliance with the Child Care and Early Years Act, the Home Child Care Program Policies and Procedures, and other regulatory requirements.
2. Staff will use coaching and mentoring strategies to support providers in offering a well-balanced program that meets the needs of each individual child entrusted to their care ensuring that all children are included and have a sense of belonging.
3. When placing children in care, the agency will take into account the ages of the children currently being cared for, any differing abilities of the children, the experience and qualifications of the provider, and the physical environment of the premises.
4. Providers will plan and serve nutritious meals following the Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide. The provider will ensure that social interactions during mealtimes are encouraged and will create a positive eating environment that is responsive to children's individual needs.
5. Children will be provided with a variety of age and developmentally appropriate activities based on their interests that will encourage exploration of their environments.
6. Providers will maintain a warm, welcoming atmosphere where children and families feel safe and cared for.
7. Providers and staff will maintain certification Standard First Aid & CPR/AED Level C.
8. Providers, residents or visitors to the premises, and staff will not engage in any prohibited practices as stated below:
  - a. corporal punishment of the child,
  - b. physical restraint of the child, such as confining the child to a highchair, 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,
  - c. locking the exits of the child care centre 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,
  - d. use of harsh or degrading measures, 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,
  - e. depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing, or bedding; or
  - f. inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will.

### **Support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents, home child care providers, and staff**

The Home Child Care Program staff and providers will prioritize the fostering of meaningful relationships with children and their families by:

1. Cultivating authentic caring relationships that are genuine and sincere to create a sense of belonging among and between children and adults.
2. Communicating the strengths and/or challenges a child is experiencing in a sensitive manner that will establish effective partnerships.
3. Maintaining positive, open and honest communication that is respectful of all races, religions, social backgrounds, differing abilities, colour, gender or sexual orientation when creating a safe environment where everyone can participate.
4. Nurturing the growth of positive, caring, and reciprocal relationships across the program to best respond to each child's individual needs.
5. Remembering that families are important contributors to the program with unique knowledge, experiences, and strengths to share.
6. Build connections with families and agency staff using preferred means of communication such as face to face conversations, phone calls, text messages, emails, etc.

### **Encourage children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate**

The Home Child Care Program staff and providers will support children's ability to self-regulate their behaviour by:

1. Nurturing the growth of positive, caring and reciprocal relationships that best respond to the child's needs.
2. Supporting a creative environment that fosters participation, negotiation, collaboration, and caring for each other between the children and adults invested in their well-being.
3. Valuing the capabilities and differences of each other, recognizing that children seek out connections that may require additional adult support to develop their ability to self-regulate.
4. Being attuned to the child's physical and emotional states and responding in a patient, warm and caring manner.
5. Establishing consistent routines and expectations by planning and evaluating ways to support smooth transitions between environments and within daily routines.

### **Foster the children's exploration, play, and enquiry**

The Home Child Care Program staff and providers will encourage and foster the children's interests in exploration, play, and enquiry by:

1. Encouraging each child to engage in activities of interest.
2. Expanding children's interests using natural materials, loose parts, and other relevant mediums that support their goals.
3. Encouraging constructive play where children are using their imaginations and creativity.
4. Participating in play at the child's level, while observing and documenting their interests to further plan and expand on them.
5. Promoting extensions of the learning taking place using provocations (open-ended questions).
6. Creating reciprocal conversation between children and adults where the child can participate as both the initiator and as an equal partner.
7. Being an active participant in child-led activities.

### **Provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences**

The Home Child Care Program will provide and encourage both child-initiated and adult-supported experiences by:

1. Focusing on the process of children creating rather than an adult directed finished process.
2. Basing the child's activities and experiences on their observed interests, expanding their knowledge using additional materials, encouraging research, enriching the environment, including family participation, and embracing the child's enthusiasm.

3. Utilizing the program library of materials and equipment to enhance the children's environment.
4. Planning daily unique activities based on each child's interests and experiences.
5. Providing flexibility in the daily routine to allow children to naturally conclude their experiences before transitioning.
6. Providing interesting, thought provoking, developmentally appropriate experiences that contribute to their overall development and offer challenges and appropriate risk taking while expanding their knowledge of the world.

**Plan for and create positive learning environments and experiences in which each child's learning and development will be supported and which is inclusive of all children, including children with individualized plans**

The Home Child Care Program will support providers in planning and creating inclusive positive learning environments by:

1. Supporting providers through coaching and mentoring, so they understand children's individual abilities and developmental milestones.
2. Encouraging providers to utilize the natural environment where children are exposed to natural and manipulative materials that encourage creative expression.
3. Providing a selection of resources that are based in children's observed interests and supporting children as competent, capable of complex thinking, and naturally curious.
4. Ensuring that each premises where child care is being offered is reflective of the four foundations of *How Does Learning Happen?* (Well-being, Belonging, Expression, and Engagement).
5. Encouraging a responsive environment that is warm, welcoming, soothing to the child, and sets the stage for positive social interactions.

**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 child care**

The Home Child Care Program supports providers in the development of a daily routine that respects the individual needs of the children by:

1. Assisting providers to create a daily routine that is flexible and meets the needs of the children.
2. Ensuring that daily activity plans include both indoor and outdoor active play opportunities, as well as scheduled rest time and mealtimes. Each provider will pace the activity plans based on the individual child's interests and needs.
3. Encouraging providers with limited outdoor space to explore and utilize local parks where children can be active.

**Foster the engagement of and ongoing communication with parents/guardians about the Home Child Care Program and their children**

The Home Child Care Program fosters the engagement of and ongoing communication with parents/guardians and their children by:

1. Respecting families and children regardless of their race, religion, social background, differing abilities, colour, gender, or sexual orientation.
2. Maintaining a safe environment where positive, open, and honest communication with providers, families, and other program participants can occur.
3. Being attuned to the family's and their child's physical and emotional states and responding in a warm and caring manner.
4. Building connections with families through multiple media and in-person formats.
5. Remembering that the family is the child's first educator and are important contributors with unique experiences, knowledge, and strengths to share.

**Involve local community partners and allow those partners to support the children, their families, and home child care providers**

The Home Child Care Program has established partnerships with a variety of community partners and

supports providers assisting professionals in their work with the children and their families by:

1. Attending premises during a visit from a community professional to allow the provider to participate in the visit.
2. Encouraging providers to attend community events and programs, such as the EarlyON Child and Family Centre.
3. Ensuring that the provider understands and can incorporate Individualized Support Plans goals into the daily activities and routines. Home Child Care Program staff will review the ISP's to ensure that goals are realistic, supportive, and strength-based, as well as supporting the provider with any adaptations/modifications recommended.
4. Supporting providers to be honest with the parents/guardians and community partners about any challenges the child may be facing, choosing the most appropriate time for a discussion.
5. Providing any resources, equipment, and materials to ensure every child can be successful.
6. Assisting families and providers with referrals to community agencies.

### **Support Home Child Care Program staff, providers and others who interact with the children at a home child care premises in relation to continuous professional learning**

The Home Child Care Program values and encourages continuous professional learning by:

1. Providing information and resources to providers that will assist learning related to child development, child care, business development, and other subjects of interest.
2. Keeping both providers and staff up to date with new developments in the field of home-based child care.
3. Ensuring that all program staff are registered and members in good standing with the College of Early Childhood Educators.

### **Document and review the impact of the strategies set out in this program statement on the children and their families**

The Home Child Care Program will review and document the impact of the strategies set out in this program statement by:

1. Connecting annually with program staff, providers, and families to receive feedback through the use of surveys, conversations, home visits, and any other means available.
2. Annually revising this document based on the feedback received.
3. Ensuring that the most current version of this document is available to all families, providers, and new program staff.