

The purpose of this overview is to:

- Help you to become more comfortable with our program and to answer possible questions you may have.
- Give you a better understanding of Preschool 2, our goals and objectives for the upcoming year.
- Introduce you to the primary teachers of your child's program.

We hope you will find this of use and welcome any questions or concerns you may have at any time.

## Program Goals of Preschool 2...

Preschool 2 is a multi-age setting, with children ranging in ages 2-5. Understanding that the development needs of children are so varied, we have divided the group into two groups for our specific circle and activity times. The Ladybugs are the younger children (2-3 years) and the Dragonflies are the older children (3-5 years).

Our activities and circle times do not revolve around a theme-based curriculum. Instead we believe that children learn more readily when the activities are based on their particular needs, interests, or developmental 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.

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
- Enhancing children's development in the four main areas- cognitive, socio/emotional, physical, and spiritual
- Providing developmentally stimulating activities
- Allowing children to explore new materials so that they may get a better understanding of the world around them.



## Preschool Two Journals

Each child will have a journal that will circulate between day care and home each day. In the journal you will find something written about what your child has done throughout the day. There may be items glued on the page, drawings or even pictures. At home, parents and children may glue in a special treasure found on a walk or tell something interesting. Each day we will be reading the journals with the children.

Since the journals are daily, we will need to rely on you to take it home, work together with your child and have your child bring it to day care and place it in the basket each day. Please be assured that we expect only one simple entry each time. At home, your child can revisit a school experience and “read” the journal to you and other family members. This is a great beginning to literacy skills.

If you have any questions about the journals, please ask. We look forward to working with you.



## Communication and Parental Involvement...

At Discovery Children's Centre, we encourage family involvement. We consider ourselves to be an extension of your child's family and hope that you feel the same.

Besides daily verbal communication with our parents (guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.), we also have a white board outside the room. We would ask that you check it daily, as it will have information regarding your child's day and other upcoming events.

Twice a year we will be doing developmental assessment of your child and you will receive a synopsis of our observations. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's assessment, please feel free to speak to a staff. This program's success depends upon involvement from all of our families.



# Preschool Two Programming

At Discovery, staff has been trained in many different aspects of program planning. The first being, Virtues. Language has a great influence to empower or discourage. Self-esteem is built when shaming or blaming language is replaced by calling each other to virtues. It is applied both when acknowledging and correcting someone. Staff can provide more information on this if you are interested. Below is a list of the 52 virtues.

## Virtues:

### The Gift of Character

|               |              |                 |                 |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Assertiveness | Detachment   | Humility        | Patience        |
| Caring        | Diligence    | Idealism        | Peacefulness    |
| Cleanliness   | Enthusiasm   | Integrity       | Perseverance    |
| Commitment    | Excellence   | Joyfulness      | Purposefulness  |
| Compassion    | Flexibility  | Justice         | Reliability     |
| Confidence    | Forgiveness  | Kindness        | Respect         |
| Consideration | Friendliness | Love            | Responsibility  |
| Cooperation   | Generosity   | Loyalty         | Self-discipline |
| Courage       | Gentleness   | Moderation      | Service         |
| Courtesy      | Helpfulness  | Modesty         | Tact            |
| Creativity    | Honor        | Orderliness     | Thankfulness    |
| Tolerance     | Trust        | Trustworthiness | Truthfulness    |
| Understanding | Unity        |                 |                 |

The second is a “loose parts box”. The boxes can be made up of anything such as a baking box, texture box, etc.

The idea behind the boxes is to let the children decide how the items inside will be used. The boxes can also travel to anywhere in the room.



## Some final reminders...

Please have your child in appropriate “work clothes” as we have an optional smock policy at our center. We believe that the children learn best by doing and our activities sometimes include water, paint, sand and cornstarch, just to name a few.

In addition, with regards to clothes, please ensure that your child has a few changes of clothes. Accidents sometimes occur and we do not provide extra clothes from the center. Also, we spend a great deal of time outside. To make your child’s experience the most enjoyable, we would ask that they are dressed appropriately for the weather.

We have a sign in/out sheet that we require parents to use. It is located on the ledge as you walk into Preschool 2.

Our center policy book will give you a description of our behaviour management policy. We do not believe in time outs per say. We feel that when children are having a difficult time, they are telling us they need time to themselves, whether this would be reading, or doing a puzzle on their own. This generally aids them to recompose themselves. We do not tolerate violence of any kind and will address the issue on an individual basis. We consistently encourage children to be respectful of one another, themselves, parents and teachers. We also feel that responsibility is extremely important and have learned that young children can take ownership with assistance of caring adults.



# Daily Schedule

7:00-9:00 am – Free play, child inspired activities, as well as all areas are open for children

9:00-10:00 am – Clean up, journal time, and snack time followed by free play

10:00-10:30 am – Circle time for both older and younger children. They will separate into smaller groups and rotate between PS2 room and the large muscle room

10:30-11:15 am – Prepare to go outside/outdoor play

11:15-12:00 pm – Lunch time and preparation for naptime

12:00-2:30 pm – Nap/rest time. Those children who do not sleep will go to Preschool 1 for free play

2:30-3:00 pm – Free play in Preschool 2

3:00-3:30 pm – Sing along/story time followed by snack time

3:30-5:00 pm – Activities available in the room or outdoor play

5:00-5:30 pm – Large muscle room



Discovery'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.

