

Welcome to School Age 2



Welcome to School-age Two (SA2)!

Our 'play based' program has 60 children in grades 1-6 from a variety of schools in our neighbourhood. We look forward to getting to know you and your child. We know that all children are unique and special. We feel blessed to have the opportunity to spend our days with them. The following information is to help answer some questions that you may have.

Sign In/Out

Please sign your child in and out daily. The parent clipboard is in Room 11. There is a two-step drop off/pick up procedure you must follow:

- Drop off – let the staff with the “staff clip board” know you are dropping off your child and then sign them in on the parent clipboard.
- Pick up – let the staff with the “staff clip board” know when your child is being picked up at the end of the day and sign them out on the parent clipboard.

Parent Communication Board (white board)

SA2 has a white board in the hallway by room 11 (our main room), please check it daily for any updates or information.

Virtues

Discovery staff have been trained in the Virtues Project. We incorporate these virtues in our language with children. Staff can provide more information on the Virtues Project if you are interested. Here is a list of the 52 virtues: assertiveness, caring, cleanliness, commitment, compassion, confidence, consideration, cooperation, courage, courtesy, creativity, detachment, determination, diligence, enthusiasm, excellence, flexibility, forgiveness, friendliness, generosity, gentleness, helpfulness, honesty, honour, humility, idealism, integrity, joyfulness, justice, kindness, love, loyalty, moderation, modesty, orderliness, patience, peacefulness, perseverance, purposefulness, reliability, respect, responsibility, self-discipline, service, tact, thankfulness, tolerance, trust, trustworthiness, truthfulness, understanding, unity.

Groups

Staff divide the children into multi-age groups as follows:

- September to June we divide into two groups
- Summer time ((July & August) we divide into four groups

Microwaves

Children may heat up their own 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.

Indirect Supervision

We nurture independence and so with parent's written permission, children may have the privilege of indirect supervision which allows them to:

- go to their locker and to the washroom unsupervised
- do activities in a parallel room from staff (they will be checked in on every 10 minutes)
- perform small errands in the centre that staff have asked them to help with

*This privilege can be removed if the child displays behaviour that is not consistent with our code of conduct.

Inclusion

Discovery 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 Discovery. This will include the sharing of any extra tasks, as required, by all staff in the Unit.

Extracurricular School Activities

Your child may request to participate in the extracurricular activities at their school. All children will require a signed consent form indicating your permission for your child to participate in the activity and to walk to/from school unsupervised. If a form has not been signed by a parent, your child will not be allowed to participate.

Here is our procedure for extracurricular school activities:

- Lunch hour activities - Children are released to leave from Discovery Children's Centre at 12:05 (noon) to walk themselves to school for the activity (e.g. Intramurals). Due to the schedule

demands, a staff will not be sent with your child. No patrols are present at this time to assist the children to cross the street.

- After School activities - Your child will cross the street to return to the centre without staff supervision. The patrols will not be on duty. If you are picking your child up from the school and not returning to the centre, please be sure that our staff is informed.

Helper Chart

Four children are assigned to be a 'daily helper' at lunch time. Their responsibilities are to clean tables, sweep the floors and help to tidy up. We encourage children to take ownership of our environment and to keep our space clean.

After School Activities/Cooperative Games

- A variety of activities and cooperative/field games are implemented daily with the children.
- S.W.A.T. Team Leadership Program - The S.W.A.T. Leadership Programs (**Students Who Assist Teachers**) teach children ages 9 to 12 leadership skills that build confidence. The leadership characteristics that we encourage in this program are: respect, responsibility, taking initiative, integrity, honesty and trust. We believe that if children are taught leadership skills at an early age they have the potential of growing into productive, confident Canadians that are able to deal with negative situations positively. S.W.A.T. team children are encouraged to assist in a number of ways at the Centre. We also offer mini workshops. Some topics may include, personal safety ("Kids in the Know" programing), staying home alone (Grades 5-6) and babysitting training.

"What makes you different as a child will make you great as an adult. Celebrate your difference!"

Clubs

In addition to our regular daily activities, during the months of September to June, SA2 runs a variety of monthly after school clubs (approx. 3:45-4:45 p.m.) i.e. baking, sewing, stop motion, drumming. Children are asked to select their first, second and third choice from the options available. Since the clubs will have limited spaces we may run each club twice during the week to allow for two groups to participate. We strive to give each child the opportunity to participate in at least one club. Once a child has joined a club please allow them to stay and participate on those days so that they can work on their project/activity as some are ongoing.

Parent Volunteers

We welcome parent volunteers so if you are able and interested to help out, contact us so we can arrange the best possible fit for your involvement in our program.

Electronics and/or Toys from Home

Our focus is on helping children grow strong interpersonal skills and friendships, bring an active balance to their more sedentary school day and reconnecting children with nature. For these and other reasons we restrict the use of electronics in our program. This includes screen time involving watching movies.

- Children are responsible for their own toys brought from home.
- Children that have cell phones and bring them to daycare are required to leave them in their lockers.

*Our staff are not able to assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.

“Camp Day” Fundraising

For several years now we have enjoyed celebrating the end of the school year by planning a “Camp Day”. The cost of this day is significant and so each year we engage in fundraising activities to help defray the cost. Camp Day is typically on the last day of school (officially an in-service day), that all of the SA2 children participate in. In past years we have gone to Camp Manitou and Camp Assiniboia. We encourage you to help us fundraise by participating in our hot lunch fundraisers and bake sale, etc. Camp Day allows children to spend an amazing day outside participating in activities such as: zip-lining, archery, fire building/bannock baking and a variety of other activities.

*Please note that fundraising for this specific event does not replace centre fundraising expectations (see parent policy book).

Nature at Discovery Children’s Centre

Our goal is to teach the children to be responsible caregivers of our world. We do this by helping them to appreciate and love nature. At Discovery the children help us to recycle and compost 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.

In the last 10 years nature has become 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, sometimes even enjoy the mud pit and let snowflakes fall on our tongues. In our outdoor playgrounds we have many gardening beds that allow us to learn gardening skills in the summer months and harvesting in the fall.

Helpful Hints

- Please call Discovery when your child will be absent so we are not spending valuable time searching for them. We'd rather be spending time with the children.
- Carry photo I.D. with you at all times. We have a large number of staff and they may not all know you, please also remind people on your child's pick up list to carry I.D.
- Please label your child's belongings. We often have children with similar items. If your child loses an item check out the lost and found basket in the hallway. It is located by the water fountains outside of Room 11.
- Please leave a change of clothes in your child's locker, even school-age children need to change sometimes and it's embarrassing to have nothing to change into.
- We are always here to help and support not only your child but you as well. Let us know how we can be of assistance and we will do our best to help if possible.

School Day Schedule (September to June)

Please note that times may vary slightly due to scheduling changes and outdoor play is weather depending (i.e. wind chill & high U.V. rating)

7:00 a.m.	Free play in room 11 & 12 or Adventure Playground
7:15-8:25 a.m.	Snack (free flow)-inside or out
7:30 a.m.	Golden Gate children leave for school bus (independently)
7:50 a.m.	Assiniboine children leave for bus George Waters children leave for bus (independently)
8:00 a.m.	Large Muscle/Gym Romeo Dallaire children leave for bus
8:15 a.m.	WMEMS/MSD children leave to catch bus
8:30 a.m.	Tidy up & Stevenson children walk to school
11:40 a.m.	Stevenson children return for lunch
12:15 p.m.	Children excused for free play in rooms or DCC playgrounds Daily helpers tidy up after lunch
12:05 p.m.	Children signed up for extracurricular activities at school excused to return to school (independently)
12:35 p.m.	Children walk back to Stevenson
3:40 p.m.	Stevenson/Assiniboine/George Waters children arrive from school
3:40-4:15 p.m.	Snack (free flow)-inside or out
4:00 p.m.	WMEMS/MSD/Romeo Dallaire children return
4:30 p.m.	Golden Gate children return (snack provided)
3:40-5:45 p.m.	Outside playgrounds/gym free play/after school activities/cooperative games
5:45-6:00 p.m.	Flex

In-Service Day/Non-School Days/Summer Schedule

*Please note that times may vary due to scheduling changes/special activities/field trips and outdoor play is weather depending (i.e. wind chill & high U.V. rating). Calendars will be handed out for summer groups.

7:00 a.m.	Free play in room 11 & 12 or Adventure Playground
8:15-9:00 a.m.	Snack (free flow)-inside or out
8:00 a.m.	Large Muscle/Gym /Free Play/activities inside or outside
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
12:20 p.m.	Children excused for free play in rooms or DCC playgrounds
	Daily helpers tidy up after lunch
	Free Play/activities inside or outside
3:30 p.m.	Snack (free flow)-inside or out
3:40-5:45 p.m.	Outside playgrounds/Gym free play/Activities/cooperative games
5:45-6:00 p.m.	Flex