

MY WORLD OF LEARNING CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION
C/O NSCC - TRURO CAMPUS
36 ARTHUR STREET
TRURO NS B2N 1X5
Phone Number: 902-897-0486
E-mail Address: myworldoflearningcc@gmail.com
Website: www.myworldoflearning.ca

FAMILY HANDBOOK

Welcome to My World of Learning! My World of Learning Child Care Association is a non-profit organization licensed to offer care for 40 children per day from 18 months to 12 years of age. We are fully inspected and operate under licensing of the Early Learning Child Care Act and Regulations which are administered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

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FAMILY HANDBOOK - The policies found in this family handbook have been developed for the purpose of providing an environment with the well-being of your child in mind. We trust you will appreciate the importance of supporting these policies. As required in 4.2 of the Ministerial Requirements for a Family Communications Plan, the following are available in the Information Binder on top of the children’s cubbies for parents/guardians to view: a copy of the Early Learning Child Care Act and Regulations, a copy of the family handbook, the license, a copy of the report of the most recent inspection, a copy of the behaviour guidance policy, a copy of the current menu, a copy of the daily program plan and routine, a list of the names of the current members of the family committee, a copy of the most recent minutes of the family committee, notifications of funding provided by the Province of Nova Scotia and any information required by the Minister.

CORE VALUES

Philosophy Statement We strive towards a nurturing, welcoming environment in which all children can develop and enhance their existing skills. We believe children learn through play as well as child-initiated and educator-supported activities and experiences. Our programs are created to support all areas of development. Through reflective practice educators will continually evaluate and make adaptations based on children’s responses, interactions and interests.

Mission Statement My World of Learning Child Care Association is a non-profit child care centre whose staff and Board of Directors are committed to providing quality inclusive child care for all children between the ages of eighteen months and twelve years.

Image of The Child Statement We believe children are happy and kind and thrive through supportive relationships. By creating inviting, enriched environments we can enhance a child’s natural curiosity. When we provide a variety of nurturing and challenging experiences we can foster confidence and resilience.

Vision Statement of Inclusive Child Care The staff and Board of Directors of My World of Learning Child Care Association believe that all children have the right to attend our centre. We strongly believe an inclusive environment helps children develop empathy and to accept each other as individuals. We offer quality child care that offers a developmentally and individually appropriate learning environment.

COVID-19 Policy Families are encouraged to keep their children home if they have symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined on <https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus> to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We ask you take your children to use the washroom and wash their hands before they enter their classroom to help stop the spread of illnesses. Please continue to follow your scheduled drop-off and pick-up times as staffing is based on anticipated numbers. Wearing a mask is optional. For more information on COVID-19 in Nova Scotia, visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/> and <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/en>.

My World of Learning will continue to follow the day care's Health Policy as found in the Family Handbook based on the Guidelines for Communicable Disease Prevention for Child Care Programs and Family Home Child Care Agencies found at: https://novascotia.ca/dhw/CDPC/documents/Guidelines_CDPC_Child_care_Setting.pdf. If you have questions in regards to our health policy and if your child should attend day care, please contact us before bringing your child to the centre. If your child is staying home due to illness, please let us know your child's specific symptoms as we may need to report to Public Health.

Inclusion Policy My World of Learning Child Care Association provides an inclusive environment for all children by including children with special needs at the naturally occurring rate of approximately 10% of the population. All children have the right to attend our centre, on their registered days, during the centre's regular operating hours.

We believe in working as a team with families through verbal and written daily updates about the children's time at the centre. Progress reports that summarize a child's skills as observed at the day care are provided twice annually. We welcome family involvement by encouraging families to participate by attending family meetings, joining the family committee, becoming volunteers to assist in the classroom and on field trips and applying to be on the Board of Directors.

Children's needs are identified and met through a process beginning with observation as outlined in the routine-based plans. Routine-based plans are created using a team approach with the child's family, educators, speech-language pathologists, early interventionists, physiotherapists and other professionals working together. The team identifies goals and sets strategies to allow the child to participate in all activities. These goals are implemented during children's play experiences, and assessed and re-evaluated regularly, as the child develops.

Educators are required to attend professional development opportunities each year. They are encouraged to attend workshops on the subject of inclusion. Resource materials are available to assist educators to be effective in providing inclusive care.

The centre applies annually for the Inclusion Support Grant through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This grant provides funding to assist the day care in having an extra, non-ratio educator on staff to assist in meeting the needs of all the children.

Family Communications Plan My World of Learning believes in open communication between families and day care staff. We use a number of ways to exchange information with

parents. This includes face to face conversations, phone calls, App, emails, social media accounts, website and paper documents. We also support and encourage further family involvement through volunteering or our family committee.

The Director or Director Designate offers tours of the centre and an opportunity to discuss the individual needs and expectations of the family as part of the registration process. Registration packages which include a family handbook are available as an electronic or paper document. The family handbook outlining what My World of Learning offers and how it operates and is available for viewing in the red information binder on top of the children's cubbies. When filling out the registration forms, parents and guardians are asked how they would like to receive regular written communication from the day care. Information such as special events, resources, inspections and regulatory requirements are shared with families through the option of their choice.

My World of Learning provides parents and families information about their children's experiences at day care through verbal and written communication. Families are encouraged to speak to their children's educators at drop off and pick up times. Through daily reports, notes and photographs using the App, educators will keep families updated on their children's daily activities including play experiences, snacks and meals, sleep, and toileting. If parents prefer, paper records can be provided instead of using the app. Children's progress reports, completed twice a year, provide parents with information about the children's skills and interests. Educators use these reports to create activities and environments that meet the children's needs and matches their curiosities.

Notable situation reports are filled out for parents and guardians to sign if an accident, illness or other incident affects a child attending the day care. When parents and educators observe concerns regarding a child's development we create routine-based plans, using a team approach to identify goals and sets strategies to allow the child to participate in all activities.

Families have the opportunity to contribute to the program and connect with other families through volunteering and participating in the family committee meetings. Parents, families and staff are invited to provide their opinions through surveys and program assessments which are then used to develop our quality improvement plans, a component of the Quality Matters Program.

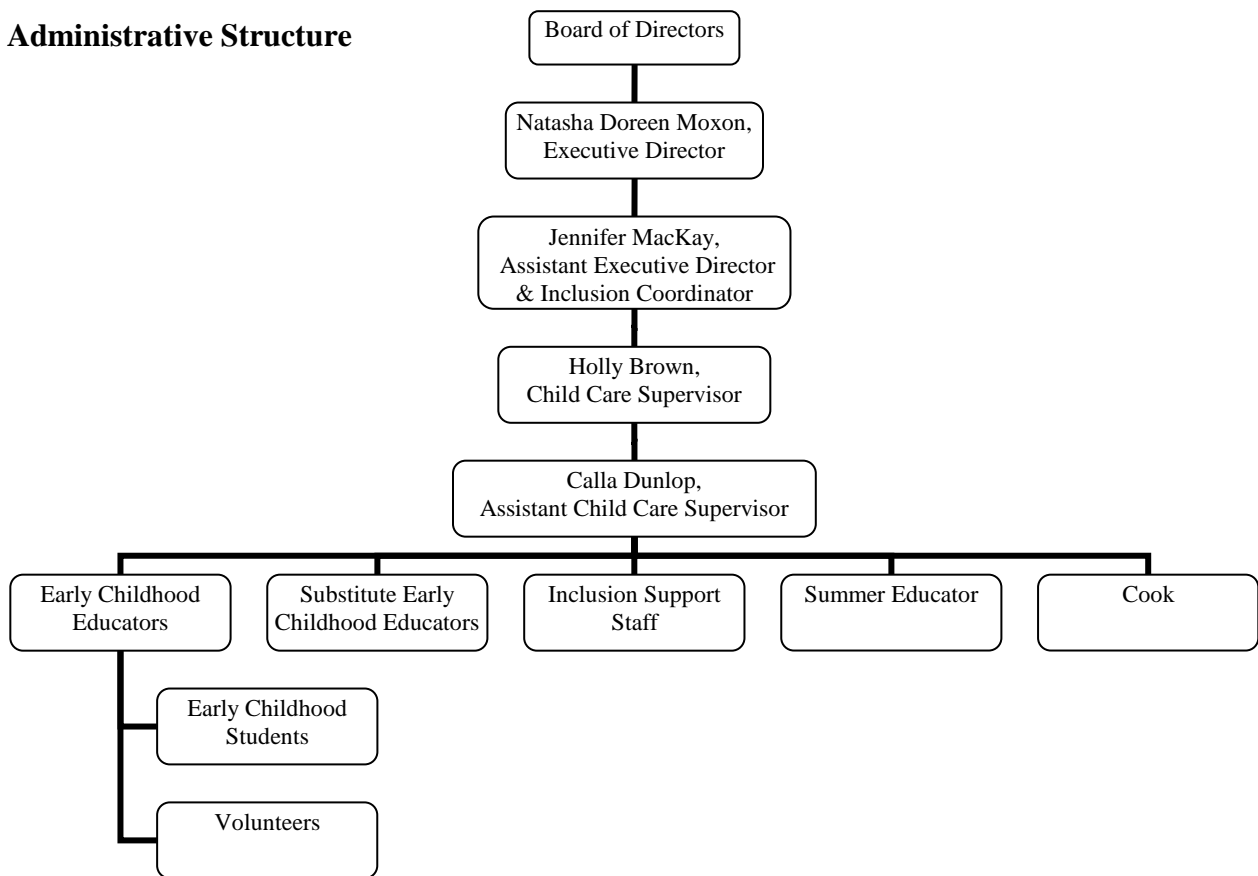
WHO WE ARE

Staff The day care staff consists of: Early Childhood Educators, Inclusion Support Staff, Cook, Inclusion Coordinator, Assistant Child Care Supervisor, Child Care Supervisor, Assistant Executive Director, Substitute Early Childhood Educators, Volunteers, Early Childhood Students and Executive Director. The Executive Director is in charge of all day-to-day operations and is accountable to the Board of Directors. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your child's educator. If you need more information or assistance, please ask to speak to the Director on Duty.

Family Committee A family committee composed of at least three parents/guardians of children currently enrolled in a program offered by the day care, one staff member, who provides regular care for children and the Executive Director as the representative of the Board of Directors must be maintained. The majority of members on the committee are parents/guardians of children currently enrolled. The committee must meet at least twice a year. Committee meetings are open to all parents/guardians of children enrolled at the centre. Families will receive written notice of family committee meetings at least 2 weeks before the meeting. A written notice of committee meetings will be posted in the Information Binder at least 2 weeks before the meeting. Parents/guardians may add items to the meeting’s agenda by informing the Executive Director. The committee may discuss any matters of interest or concern to the parents/guardians, which could include the following: (a) the safety, care and well-being of the children; (b) the status of facility’s license; (c) the programs provided by the centre; (d) the equipment and materials available to children; (e) staffing patterns and staff qualifications. The Executive Director will prepare and post a copy of the minutes from the meeting no later than 2 weeks after the meeting date in the Information Binder. Minutes will remain posted in the Information Binder until the next meeting minutes are posted.

Board Of Directors My World of Learning Child Care Association is a non-profit organization operated by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors consists of volunteers from the community and includes parent and staff representation from the centre. If you are interested in applying to join the Board of Directors, please inform the Executive Director.

Administrative Structure



Early Childhood Students My World of Learning supports the education of students by permitting them to fulfill their practicum requirements in our day care facility. Notice of a student educator's presence will be provided to families. Each early childhood student must complete a Child Abuse Register Check, a Vulnerable Sector Check, and day care orientation before they are able to begin their practicums.

Volunteers Volunteers are welcome at My World of Learning. Each volunteer must complete a Child Abuse Register Check, a Vulnerable Sector Check, and day care orientation before they are able to begin volunteering.

OPERATIONS

Hours Of Operation The day care operates from 7:30am to 5:15pm, Mondays to Fridays, year-round. The day care will be closed the last week in July each summer (i.e. July 29-August 2, 2024) to allow the staff to participate in professional development and for the Nova Scotia Community College to carry out maintenance work. The centre will also be closed the three days between Boxing Day and New Year's Day each year (i.e. December 27, 30 & 31, 2024) at the College's request. There are no child care fees charged during these two time periods.

Access Cards The day care is located in a locked building called Davis Hall on the NSCC-Truro Campus which requires access cards to gain entry. Each family will be given an access card at enrollment, a fee may be charged for additional or replacement cards. If you have questions or concerns regarding obtaining access cards, please let us know. Due to educator-child ratios, teaching staff may be unable to leave their classrooms to open the door for parents or other persons who do not have access cards.

Holidays The day care will be closed on the following holidays:

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| New Year's Day | Heritage Day | Good Friday | Easter Monday |
| Victoria Day | Canada Day | Civic Holiday | Labour Day |
| National Day for Truth and Reconciliation | Thanksgiving Day | Remembrance Day | |
| Christmas Day | Boxing Day | | |

Please note: The day care will close at 1 pm on Christmas Eve Day

If a holiday falls on a weekend, the day care will be closed the next business day. If it is your child's registered day, families will be charged regular rates on holidays. Families are responsible for obtaining alternate care.

Closures My World of Learning may be closed in cases of severe weather, power failure, heat loss or other circumstances. When the day care closes before it opens or opens late, this information will be shared with families through email or app depending on their choice of how they would like to receive information from the centre. If the day care does not open, opens late or closes early, families will be charged regular rates. If the day care closes early, staff will contact parents/guardians to pick up their children. Notification of closures will be provided in advance, if possible.

Classrooms Children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years are grouped by age in three separate classrooms. During the summer months, school-aged children between the ages of 5 and 12 years may be in attendance depending on availability of spaces.

ENROLLMENT

Admission A child's acceptance into a program will be based on the centre's ability to meet each family's needs. The day care may use an Admissions Committee consisting of the Executive Director and Board of Director members to make recommendations of to determine which children will be enrolled in the program. The Committee may take into consideration the following: available seats, Nova Scotia Community College students' children, siblings of children currently enrolled, community need, children of staff and special needs in relation to the capacity of how the centre can meet individual needs.

Waiting List If there is not space available for a family when they ask to enroll a child in the centre, they will be placed on the waiting list. The waiting list will be occasionally updated. If we are unable to contact a family on the waiting list, the name will be removed from the list, for example: disconnected number, failure to reply.

Enrollment A child will be considered officially enrolled in a program if a child care seat is offered to the family and a completed registration form is returned to the centre.

Attendance Days of attendance are selected when a child starts at the day care depending on the family's needs and availability at the day care. A child may attend the centre on a part-week or full-week basis. Part-week enrollment is between 2-4 days per week, the same days each week i.e. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Full-week enrollment is Mondays to Fridays. If you wish to change days of attendance from part-week to full-week or visa versa or change the days a part-week child attends, 30 days' written notice is required and depending on availability.

Orientation All families receive a family handbook, their choice of paper or electronic format, before enrolling their child(ren) at the day care. The Executive Director or another member of the management team will provide families with a tour of the day care, an opportunity to discuss their individual needs and expectations and will assist with the enrollment process.

The first days are very important days for your child. It can be difficult for some children to adjust to a new environment. Children should be introduced to the setting on a gradual basis. Parent/guardian and child should visit the day care before attending the centre to become more familiar with the environment, staff and children. Children benefit from shorter days for the first week, for example: Day 1-8:30-12:00, Day 2-8:30-2:30, Day 3-8:30-4:30. Families and educators are encouraged to work together to develop a plan specific for the child.

What To Bring Please supply the following items for your child's use to make their time at day care more comfortable. All items of clothing should be labeled with the child's name or initials.

- a few complete changes of hardwearing play clothes (shirt, sweater, pants, socks,

- underwear). Please ensure clothing fosters independence i.e. easy snaps, no belts
- indoor and outdoor sneakers/boots
- diapers or pull ups (one package) and wipes (one package) if your child is not completely toilet trained (educators will let you know when supplies run low)
- appropriate outdoor clothing i.e. hat for the season including a hat with a brim, coat, splash suits, winter boots...
- one blanket and one small pillow with pillowcase (optional) that will fit in the top part of the cubbie (family is responsible for laundry on a weekly basis)
- reusable water bottle

Cubbies All children attending full-week will be assigned a cubbie for their sole use. Children attending the centre on a part-week basis may be required to share a cubbie with another child attending part-week. For example, if a child attends on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays he/she may share a cubbie with a child who attends on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This means if your child attends part-week you will need to take home your child's belongings each day or place them in the bins on top of the cubbies.

Each cubbie features three separate sections. The top section is to be used to put one blanket, one small pillow (optional) and one small comfort toy (optional) to be used during quiet time. The middle section has hooks to hang hats, coats, snow pants/splash pants/muddy buddy, and a backpack. The backpack needs to contain multiple changes of clothing (shirt, pants, underwear, socks, and sweater) every day. If your child is toilet training, families are asked to send extra underwear, pants and socks. Please do not leave medications (prescription and non-prescription) in your child's bag. Medications are to be given to your child's classroom educators. The bottom section is to be used to put footwear. Please limit the number of pairs of footwear.

Arrival At registration time, families are asked to set drop off and pick up times which ensures that the ratio of the number of educators to children is acceptable. Children must not be dropped off before the day care opens. Please remove your child's outdoor clothing and footwear and put them in your child's cubbie. Please ensure your child has used the washroom and washed hands before joining their class. Upon entering the classroom, ensure your child's educator is aware of your child's arrival.

Absence Parents/guardians are asked to contact the centre before 9:00 am to tell the day care that your child will be absent, late or ill. If the child is ill, the parent/guardian is asked to tell the centre the symptoms of the illness. This information is essential as we need to report attendance to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development as well as illnesses to Public Health.

Pick-Up/Departure Children must be picked up by closing time every day. Upon pick-up, ensure your child's educator is aware your child is leaving for the day. All persons picking up children from My World of Learning are required to present photo identification before they are able to pick up a child. An adult (age 19 or older) must accompany children to and from the centre. Children will not be permitted to leave the program with anyone other than an authorized

adult as listed in the registration form unless a parent informs us of the change. Children may be picked up from the outdoor play space behind Davis Hall in the afternoons.

If a child is not picked up by closing time, a late charge of \$ 10.00 will be applied to your account. In addition, \$ 1.00 will be charged for every minute the child is late being picked up. For example, if a child is picked up at 5:30 pm a late charge of \$ 25.00 will be added to the account. After a child is late being picked up three times, the day care reserves the right to revoke child care services.

In the event a child has not been picked up by 6:30 pm and staff is unable to contact an authorized person, the police department and/or Child Welfare will be contacted. Further action will be determined by the above agencies.

If a person authorized to pick up a child is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol when he/she tries to pick up the child, the day care has the right to refuse to transfer care to that person and to contact another authorized person to pick up the child.

Transfer of Care Transfer of care at arrival time occurs when the educator accepts the child into the classroom and at departure time when the child has been released to the authorized person. Authorized persons are expected to supervise the children and abide by all safety rules while they are on the premises. Children are not to be left alone on the premises at any time. For example: children cannot go to the washroom, be in a classroom or in the hallway alone.

BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE POLICY

The purpose of our Behaviour Guidance Policy is to outline acceptable strategies that volunteers, early childhood students and educators at My World of Learning can use to guide children's behaviours and to state the approaches which are not acceptable at the centre. We recognize that children have the right to be themselves. The differences between children make them unique and can make it challenging for them to interact in a group setting.

We are aware that the environment, materials, programming and schedule can impact the behaviour of the children at the child care centre. We strive to create classrooms that take the following into consideration:

- Divide the classrooms into centres allowing for loud and quiet areas appropriately separated.
- Consider traffic flow to allow day care personnel and children to freely move around the classrooms.
- Stock the classrooms with a variety of appealing toys in adequate amounts.
- Design a play-based, learning program that is based on the children's interests and developmental levels.
- Set a routine that is consistent but flexible so children know what to expect.
- Provide a schedule with a balance of indoor and outdoor play, quiet and active period and child-initiated and educator-led activities.
- Implement gross motor activities daily, indoors and outdoors, to allow children to use their energy in an appropriate manner.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE PRACTICES *Early Learning and Child Care Regs19(1)*

The day care's staff, early childhood students and volunteers will not for any reason:

- a. Use corporal punishment, including but not limited to the following:
 - i. Striking a child directly or with any physical object;
 - ii. Shaking, shoving, spanking, slapping or other forms of aggressive physical contact;
- b. Require or force a child to repeat physical movements;
- c. Use harsh, humiliating, belittling or degrading responses of any form, including verbal, emotional or physical;
- d. Confine, restrain or isolate a child or children;
- e. Deprive a child of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter and/or bedding)

FOOD IS NOT USED TO REINFORCE DESIRED BEHAVIOURS

The staff, early childhood students and volunteers do not offer food to reinforce positive behaviours. They do not withhold food as a consequence for inappropriate behaviours. Food is not used as a reward for completing a task or finishing a meal.

BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE STRATEGIES

The following strategies will be used at My World of Learning to guide behaviour.

1. Establish clear, consistent and simple limits that are stated in a positive way. Provide an explanation for the limits. Remind children often of the limits.

Limits are fair and used to help the children learn self-regulation. Limits should be explained to a child's ability of understanding including why they should follow the limits. Limits should be enforced consistently by all educators. Children have short attention spans and can become distracted; reminding the children of the limits will help keep them on track.

Say: "When we walk inside, we will not fall and hurt ourselves."

Instead of: "Do not run."

2. Allow the children to make choices throughout the day.

Children benefit from making choices by reinforcing child-control, limiting their frustrations and learning how to make decisions.

Say: "Would you like to put on your coat or hat first?"

Instead of: "Put on your coat."

3. State what is expected, rather than pose a question.

Phrasing a statement in the form of a question gives the children a chance to make a choice. Offering choices is a good approach to behaviour guidance but sometimes choices are unsuitable.

Say: "It is time to clean up now."

Instead of: "Do you want to clean up?"

4. Ignore minor incidents.

If the children's activities do not infringe on someone's safety or rights, people working with the children can ignore some behaviours.

5. Reinforce appropriate behaviour.

When children are exhibiting appropriate behaviour, it is important for the educators to acknowledge

this through words, gestures or other reinforcements. Positive reinforcement helps children build self-confidence and encourages them to repeat the desired behaviours.

Say: "Thank you for sharing your toy with Brian. That's called being kind."

Instead of: "You're a good girl."

6. Redirecting children can quickly resolve problems.

When a child is upset, offering a substitute toy or engaging her in another activity can quickly resolve a problem. Tell the child what can be done instead of what cannot be done.

7. Prepare children for transitions.

Children often have difficulty changing from one activity to another. Techniques that can be used to prepare children for transitions are: schedule boards, timers, verbal and visual cues as well as other transition activities.

Say: "You have five minutes until clean up time."

Instead of: "Clean up now."

8. Model appropriate behaviour.

Educators will model appropriate behaviour to help the children know what to say and do. Children learn by watching and listening to the adults in the classrooms.

9. Interact with the children while observing the classroom.

Educators, who are alert, interact and observe the children in their care are better positioned to anticipate potential problems and stop them from occurring. Educators need to place themselves with their backs to the wall so they can scan the whole classroom. Having an adult close by can help children regain self-control.

10. Gain the child's attention in a respectful way.

Approach the child in a respectful way. Walk to him, get down to the child's level, establish eye contact, state her name and use a calm, controlled voice to talk to him. Do not shout from across the room.

11. Acknowledge the children's feelings and help them understand them.

Adults should address all the children involved and ask them how they feel. If a child is upset, teach him how to use relaxation exercises to calm down.

12. Acknowledge feelings and focus on the behaviour, not the child.

When the educator focuses on the behaviour, rather than the child, she preserves the child's feelings and offers an opportunity for learning.

Say: "When you took the doll Lily was playing with, it made Lily sad."

Instead of: "You should be ashamed of yourself for taking your friend's doll."

13. Help children use problem-solving skills to solve issues.

When children become frustrated, it is natural for them to lose control. An adult can assist the children to come to a solution instead of the children responding in an objectionable way.

Acknowledge the problem- Say: "It is frustrating when the blocks keep falling down."
Ask questions- Say: "What would happen if you put the big block on the bottom?"
If needed, demonstrate- Say: "Put the biggest block on the bottom, like this."
Summarize- Say: "Next time, you can try to remember how we solved this problem."

ROUTINE-BASED/POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PLANS

When parents/educators observe concerns regarding a child's development we often create routine-based plans. Routine-based/positive behaviour support plans are created using a team approach with the child's family, educators, speech-language pathologists, early interventionists, physiotherapists and other professionals working together. The team identifies goals and sets strategies to allow the child to participate in all activities. These goals are implemented during children's play experiences, and assessed and re-evaluated regularly, as the child develops.

WELL-BEING

General Hygiene Children are required to wash hands at arrival, before mealtimes and after toileting. Diapering procedures are posted in the washroom and are followed by educators. A disinfecting solution is used daily on such items as the floor and tables. All toys are washed and sanitized weekly or more often as required.

Health Policy My World of Learning's health policy is based on information provided in the document Guidelines for Communicable Disease Prevention and Control for Child Care Settings (https://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/documents/Guidelines_CDPC_Child_care_Setting.pdf)

This health policy is in place in the best interest of the ill child, other day care children, their families and day care staff and their families. The staff will check children on arrival for signs of illness and children with symptoms will not be permitted to stay at the centre that day. If the day care's policy does not state information about a specific topic, we will follow the Guidelines for Communicable Disease Prevention listed above and the Canadian Paediatric Society website (<https://caringforkids.cps.ca/>) as advised by the government to determine exclusion requirements.

Please do not send your child to day care if he/she is ill and cannot fully participate in the daily program including playing outdoors. Parents/guardians are asked to notify the day care by 9:00 am if a child will be absent due to illness and inform the staff what symptoms the child has. Child care settings are required to keep records of staff and child absenteeism and report unusual symptoms or absenteeism to Public Health as per Guidelines for Communicable Prevention and Control for Child Care Settings. The day care recognizes it is difficult for people to leave work/school, we recommend families make plans ahead of time in case their child is unable to go to day care or is sent home during the day. The day care will notify the parents/guardians if the child shows any symptoms while in care and a notable situation summary report form will be prepared. Parents/guardians are asked to pick up the child when requested by the day care.

Signs/symptoms of illness:

COUGHS/COLDS/FEVER- Children with mild symptoms can attend day care if they can fully participate in the daily program including outdoor play. Children who appear ill and have any of the following symptoms will be excluded from day care: a child not able to participate in all

activities including playing outdoors, fever accompanied by sudden change in behaviour such as listlessness, excessive sleepiness, excessive fussiness or crankiness, difficulty breathing or persistent cough or other signs and symptoms such as sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache. The child can return to day care when they have fully recovered and are able to fully participate in the daily program without the help of medication.

DIARRHEA- Diarrhea can be infectious i.e. viral, bacterial infections or non-infectious i.e. food intolerance, reaction to taking antibiotics. A change from the child's normal stool i.e. from solid to liquid state and increased frequency is considered diarrhea. If a child has one episode of diarrhea during the day and no other signs of illness, the day care will inform the child's parent/guardian at the end of the day. The child may return to day care the next day, if no more diarrhea or other symptoms occur.

If more than one episode of diarrhea occurs or diarrhea with fever, vomiting or blood in the stool, the educators will ask parents to pick up the child and advise them to take the child to a health care provider for diagnosis and treatment. A child must be symptom free for at least 24 hours or until tests (if required) are returned negative before returning to day care.

VOMITING- If a child vomits once at day care, the staff will watch for other signs of illness. If no more vomiting and no other signs of illness occur, the child may return the next day. If more vomiting or vomiting with other signs of illness i.e. fever, diarrhea occur, the day care staff will contact the child's parent/guardian to pick up the child. The child can return to the day care when completely recovered and symptom free for at least 24 hours before returning, unless a health care provider determines it to be from a non-infectious cause. Parents/guardians will be informed immediately if the child has severe abdominal pain with vomiting and advise the family to consult a health care provider as soon as possible.

RASHES- If there are no other symptoms or signs of illness the day care will advise the parent/guardian at the end of the day that an unidentified rash was found and advise the family to take the child to a health care provider to determine the cause and if there is a treatment. If a rash is accompanied by a fever or other signs of illness i.e. vomiting and diarrhea, the child will be sent home. The child can return after being seen by a health care provider and has fully recovered.

Medical Emergencies In the event of a life-threatening medical emergency, the day care will call 911 and then the parents/guardians. If the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the day care will call emergency contacts listed on the registration form. Reports are filled out for parents/guardians to sign if an accident, illness or other incident affects a child attending the day care.

Notable Situation Summary Reports A notable situation summary report is filled out when an accident, communicable disease or other situation that affects or could affect the health, safety or well-being of a child attending the day care. Notable situations may include minor falls, bumps, or bruises requiring non-emergency first aid, bites, and physical disagreements between children

resulting in scratches. Educators will immediately secure any necessary medical assistance, contact parents and fill out a notable situation summary report for each child affected and a copy placed in each child's file. Parents are asked to sign the report to indicate they have seen it. Copies of summary reports are available to parents upon request.

Serious Incident Reports Serious Incident Summary Reports are filled out when emergency medical attention is required such as a life threatening illness or injury such as a broken bone or emergency dental surgery, calling 911, an ambulance, a fire or other disaster on the premises; a concern relating to the physical environment or an operational or safety practice in a centre that poses a risk to the children's health, safety or well-being; a child is not accounted for during any period of time; death of a child while in care. Educators will immediately secure any necessary medical assistance, contact parents and fill out a serious incident summary report for each child affected and a copy placed in each child's file. Parents are asked to sign the report to indicate they have seen it. Copies of summary reports are available to parents upon request. The Director will notify the President, Board of Directors and the Minister of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development within 24 hours of a serious incident.

Medications A Medication Authorization Form must be filled out and signed by the parent/guardian before any staff can administer prescription and non-prescription medications. All medications must be in the original container, in the case of a patent medicine, or in a container supplied for the purpose by a pharmacist, in the case of prescribed medicine and labelled with your child's name. Medications need to be clearly labeled in the original container and given to the staff of the program for safe storage. Staff will not administer expired medications. No medication is to be left in a child's cubbie.

Child Abuse/Neglect My World of Learning must follow the procedures outlined in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development *Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Abuse and Neglect: A Protocol and Handbook for Licensees, Child Care Staff and Care Providers in Regulated Child Care Settings* to report any suspected child abuse or neglect.

Care of Child The staff of the centre agree to use all due care in caring for all children and their belongings; however, My World of Learning Child Care Association will not be liable for any loss or damage to clothing or other items nor will we be liable for any accident, injury, illness or disease that may occur to any child while attending our program.

Safety Procedures The NSCC-Truro Campus has an emergency pull system installed in its buildings. There are three pulls: Blue Emergency Pulls for general security and medical emergencies, Yellow Emergency Pulls for lockdowns, and Red Emergency Pulls for fire alarms. Pulling the blue pull alerts security of the emergency and its location. Activating the yellow pull results in a campus lockdown alerting the emergency response team and announces a lockdown. 911 response and building evacuation will take place when the red pull is set off.

Monthly fire drills are practiced so children and staff will be prepared in the case of fire. Evacuation procedures are posted at the entrance of each classroom and around the centre. If the

centre must be evacuated due to fire or another emergency and closed, day care staff will contact an authorized person to pick up the child immediately. The designated evacuation location is the Sport and Wellness Centre on campus. If this location is not safe, the day care will use the Glengarry as the evacuation location.

Lockdown is a method used on the campus to protect people from potentially dangerous external hazards i.e. hazardous substance. Lockdown is announced through the speaker system and the staff and children take shelter in the classroom and lock the door until lockdown has ended. No one will not be able to pick up children during lockdown.

FINANCIALS

Fees

My World of Learning charges \$36 a day for full-week care, \$ 39 a day for part-week care. The Province of Nova Scotia is reducing fees by paying a portion directly to the centre resulting in the reduced parent rate below.

| Age Group | Toddler | Preschooler | School Age |
|------------------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| part-week rate per day | \$ 20.75 | \$ 20.75 | \$ 29.00 |
| full-week rate per day | \$ 17.75 | \$ 17.75 | \$ 26.00 |

Fees will be charged based on a child's enrollment status and actual age as defined in the Early Learning Child Care Act and Regulations. *“toddler” means a child who is between 18 months old and 35 months old, inclusive; “preschooler” means a child who is 36 months old or older and is not attending school; “school-age child” means a child who is attending school and is not older than 12 on December 31 of the school year.*

Families are responsible for paying for all days regardless of attendance. Children are required to stay home if they are ill and/or not well enough to participate in scheduled activities. When children become ill during the day, the day care will have no choice but to send them home, families need alternate child care arrangements ready to use if this happens.

Child Care Subsidy The subsidy program is available through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development- <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/>. The amount subsidy will pay per day will be based on your total family income on a scale determined by the government. Children may be absent up to 3 days and sick up to 5 days per month, if these numbers are exceeded regular fees will be charged. Children with subsidy seats also have subsidy vacation days from April 1-March 31 each year. Families are responsible for paying the parent fees when using absent, sick and subsidy vacation days.

Payments Payment is due the first business day of every week. Payments may be made in cash or by e-transfer. Families have the option of paying in advance i.e. bi-weekly or monthly. E-transfers can be sent to the day care’s email address at: myworldoflearningcc@gmail.com

Please include your child's name in the message section to ensure the correct account is credited. E-transfers sent to My World of Learning will be auto deposited into the centre's bank account. Overpayment will result in a credit on your child's account. Payments are considered overdue if not received before the first business day of the next week.

Receipts The Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director and Child Care Supervisor can accept cash payments and issue receipts. Receipts will be issued at the time cash payments are made. Receipts for e-transfer payments are issued as we receive notice from the bank. Please retain these receipts for income tax purposes. Year-end receipts will be issued upon request, provided the account is in good standing.

Overdue Accounts In the event a payment is late, a \$ 20.00 late payment fee will be applied to the account weekly. Failure to make weekly payments will result in suspension or termination of child care services and the account will be sent to a collection agency.

Day Care Vacation Days All children will receive day care vacation days during the annual professional development/maintenance week typically the last week in July i.e. July 29-August 2, 2024 and between Boxing Day and New Year's Day i.e. December 27, 30, 31, 2024 if enrolled to attend on these days and no payment of parent fees is required.

Fundraising My World of Learning is a non-profit organization that may need to raise additional funding through fundraisers to purchase new toys and equipment. All families are encouraged to assist the day care with fundraising activities.

Withdrawal Policy A minimum of thirty days' written notice is required to be given to the Executive Director should you decide to withdraw your child from the centre. Failure to provide proper notice will result in applicable fees being billed to your account for that period. Subsidy rates will only apply while a child is physically attending resulting in regular fees being charged for the remainder of the withdrawal period.

Dismissal The centre reserves the right to dismiss a child from the centre without notice in the following situations: overdue accounts, ill treatment or rudeness by a parent/guardian towards an employee of the centre, and other circumstances as identified by the Board of Directors.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

Daily Routine The daily routine includes indoor and outdoor play both in the morning and in the afternoon, a morning snack, lunch, an afternoon snack and a rest time.

Educational Programs My World of Learning uses the Capable, Confident, and Curious: Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework to deliver its educational programs. It is based on the certainty that children are curious, creative, full of potential, capable and confident which matches the centre's Image of the Child. The Framework provides guidance to early childhood educators on offering quality play-based learning, relationships, inclusion, diversity, equity, learning environments and reflective practice. This framework is used in funded child care

centres such as ours. Find more information about Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/nselcurriculumframework.pdf> Educators create program plans based on the learning goals, objectives and strategies happening in the classrooms. Families may ask the Executive Director to view program plans.

As you enter the centre a gallery wall displays framed documentation to share with families what the children are doing and learning during their time at My World of Learning. This documentation is also displayed in the classrooms at the children's level for them to view. Some of these documentation pieces contain multiple children and to respect everyone's privacy, please do not take photos of them. If you would like to have a copy of documentation including your child, please let us know and we will block out other children's faces then send it out to you.

Off-Site Outings/Field Trips The children may go for walks or on field trips to explore and learn about the community around us. Guest speakers may be brought in to the centre to help support the children's learning.

Outdoor Play The children go outdoors for walks or to play in the outdoor play space in all types of weather. Please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing, hat and footwear. In the event of extreme weather, educators will adjust and document outdoor play times with the best interests of the children in mind. Children will play indoors if the temperature falls below -25C (-13F), with or without wind chill factor or when the wind chill is -28C (-15F) or colder. The day care staff will use their judgment to ensure it is safe for the children to go outdoors.

The educators will check the UV index and follow chart actions as required. Sun safety steps the day care follows are: limit time in the midday sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., seek shade, avoid sun when UV Index is extreme, drink water between meals, wear lightweight clothing that covers and protects children's skin, apply sunscreen before going outside, put on hats with wide brims and wear sunglasses, as provided by the families. We need your assistance to implement these steps by sending appropriate clothing, water bottle, wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses with your child each day. The day care will supply sunscreen with at least a SPF of 30, if you would prefer no sunscreen or a particular sunscreen be used on your child please inform staff by filling out the sunscreen authorization form section of the registration form.

Nutrition The children receive two (2) wholesome snacks and a healthy lunch while in our care. Meals are served between 9:00-9:30 am, 11:30 am-12:00 pm and 2:30-3:00 pm. We ask that families do not bring food from home except in the case of special diets (see paragraph to follow). The morning and afternoon snacks consist of foods from two food groups including at least one serving of vegetables or fruit. Lunch includes foods from all four food groups. If your child will be attending after a scheduled meal time, please arrange to feed him/her before arriving at the centre.

Day care educators are responsive to children's cues around hunger and will provide snacks and meals outside of the regular schedule as required. The educators create a relaxed and enjoyable meal environment including planned transitions from play to mealtimes. Staff eat with the

children to help model appropriate eating behaviours and healthy eating practices. Children are encouraged to feed themselves and to respond to hunger and feelings of fullness and are not forced to finish food that has been served.

The day care offers a menu that runs on a four-week rotation. The snacks and lunches follow the guidelines set in the Manual for Food and Nutrition in Regulated Child Care Settings Government of Nova Scotia. A current menu is available in the Information Binder on top of the children's cubbies, distributed to families in the registration packages and at the beginning of the new menu rotations. Families who need additional copies throughout the year can ask their child's educators. Changes to the menu are documented in the Information Binder.

If your child has a special diet due to a medical condition or preference, the family will be responsible for providing these foods. Foods must be labeled with the child's name and will be refrigerated, if necessary. Do not bring foods that may contain or contain nuts or nut products. Please keep the staff informed of any food allergies your child may have or develops. General supplier information is required if families are providing alternate meat products.

The day care must purchase or receive donations of food or beverages from an establishment permitted by the Nova Scotia Environment and comply with the Food and Beverage Nutrient Criteria. The product must include a list of ingredients and any special preparation, storage or serving instructions is clearly labeled. The exception is that low risk foods including whole fruits and vegetables can also be accepted as donations.

Breastfeeding This centre welcomes mothers to breastfeed their children anywhere in the facility.

Nut-Aware Environment My World of Learning is a nut-aware environment as we have children and staff who are allergic to nut and nut products including coconut.

- 1) If sending foods to the day care, please ensure the foods are in their original packaging containing a list of ingredients. If an item is sent to the day care with no list of ingredients or it contains nuts or nut products/oils, your child will not be permitted to eat the item.
- 2) Ensure your child is free of nuts or nut products/oils before attending day care each day. This can be done by brushing teeth, washing face and hands thoroughly or not consuming nuts or nut products/oils before attending day care.

Rest Time Rest time is part of the daily routine each day. Children will be assigned a cot/mat and sheet. Families are asked to bring a blanket for their child and are responsible for laundering of the blanket on a weekly basis. Children can bring a special blankie/stuffed animal for comfort. Children who do not sleep will be provided with quiet activities i.e. puzzles, lego to engage them.

Quality Matters My World of Learning participates in Quality Matters, a continuous early childhood assessment program that supports quality in licensed child care centres in Nova Scotia.

This program is used to determine eligibility for funding based on compliance, accountability and program quality. Self-assessment is completed every three years in the areas of leadership, staffing, learning environments and relationships. Self-assessment summaries are used to create Quality Improvement Plans that My World of Learning uses to increase the quality of the programming we offer. We received a R2 rating, which is the highest possible rating, on the Quality Matters Rating System for both 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, no ratings have been issued since 2021. More information on this program can be found at:
<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/providers/QualityMatters.shtml>

Website The centre's website can be found at: www.myworldoflearning.ca

CHANGES IN POLICIES Changes may be made to the fees and policies in this handbook with one month's notice. The policies, contracts, consents and forms will be reviewed and updated, at minimum, on an annual basis. Please give written notice immediately of any changes that may occur with address, phone numbers, emergency contacts and updated immunization records. Two months' notice will be given before an increase in child care fees.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE Parents/guardians may take any concerns they may have regarding the day care to the Executive Director. If the situation is not solved to their satisfaction, the issue will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for a final decision.

PRIVACY POLICY Privacy of personal information is an important principle to My World of Learning Child Care Association. We are committed to collecting, using and disclosing personal information responsibly and only to the extent necessary for the services we provide.

What Is Personal Information?

Personal information is information about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes information that relates to their personal characteristics, (e.g. gender, age, income, home address or phone number, ethnic background, family status), their health, (e.g. health history, health conditions, health services received by them), or their activities and views (e.g. religion, politics, opinions expressed by an individual, an opinion or evaluation of an individual).

Why We Collect Personal Information

- We collect, use and disclose personal information in order to provide the best child care possible; adequately meeting the needs of the children and families.
- A second primary purpose will be to meet the legislative requirements of the Early Learning and Child Care Act.
- A third primary purpose is to collect personal information from resource support agencies to assist us in providing the best child care possible and adequately meet the individual needs of the children.
- A fourth primary purpose to obtain the necessary information so that we can contact the appropriate people in the event of an emergency.

It would be rare for us to collect any personal information without the client's express consent,

but this might occur in a case of urgency, (e.g. parent or guardian is unavailable), or where we believe the client would consent if asked and it is impractical to obtain consent, (e.g. a child's well-being is at risk).

Who We Share Our Information With

We partner with a number of agencies and support workers that may, in the course of their duties, have limited access to personal information we hold. These include computer consultants providing technical support, accounting auditors, cleaners, landlords, supply staff, resource consultants and assistants and employees of agencies that provide support to children with special needs. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Department of Community Services and other government officials, in the course of their duties to ensure compliance with the Early Learning and Child Care Act, will have access to personal information we hold. We also provide personal information to collection agencies when an account is not paid in full after the child is withdrawn or dismissed from the day care.

Protecting Personal Information

We understand the importance of protecting personal information. Personal information is stored in locked filing cabinets accessible only to authorized personnel. Computerized personal information is safeguarded through passwords and other security measures. All authorized personnel must sign a confidentiality agreement.

Retention and Destruction of Personal Information

We need to retain personal information for some time to ensure that we can answer any questions you might have about the services provided and for our own accountability to external regulatory and legislative bodies. We keep our client files for up to seven years after the client withdraws from our centre. We destroy paper files that contain personal information by shredding. We destroy electronic information by deleting it, and when the hardware is discarded, we ensure that the hard drive is formatted to erase any information contained within.

Access To Information

You have the right to see what personal information we hold about you. We will need to confirm your identity, if we do not know you, before providing you with access.

If there is a problem, we may ask you to put your request in writing. If we cannot give you access, we will tell you within 30 days if at all possible and tell you the reason, as best we can, as to why we cannot give you access. If you believe there is a mistake in the information, you have the right to ask for it to be corrected. This applies to factual information and not to any professional opinions we may have formed. We may ask you to provide documentation that our files are wrong. Where we agree that we made a mistake, we will make the correction and notify anyone to whom we sent this information. If we do not agree that we have made a mistake, we will still agree to include in our file a brief statement from you on the point.

Do You Have A Question Or Complaint?

Our Privacy Officer is: Natasha Doreen Moxon

c/o My World of Learning Child Care Association
NSCC-Truro Campus, 36 Arthur Street, Truro, NS B2N 1X5
Phone: 902-897-0486
E-mail Address: myworldoflearningcc@gmail.com

This policy is made under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act.

There are some rare exceptions to the commitments set out above.

For more general inquiries, the Privacy Commissioner of Canada can be reached at:

112 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON B1A 1H3

Phone: (800) 282-1376

Fax: (613) 947-6850

Website address: www.privcom.gc.ca

March 2024