



## **CURRICULUM STATEMENT INFANT & TODDLER PROGRAM**

At Village Child Care we provide a safe, nurturing, family orientated program for infant and toddler aged children, that supports the fostering of relationships and learning based on play and exploration. We recognize that every area of our program provides opportunities for children to play & explore. Early Childhood Educators and caregivers spend time with each child to build a trusting relationship and observe their development, needs, routines and interactions. This allows them to center the program and environment around the needs of the children and to help them develop a sense of “self” and an understanding of the world around them.

We believe in the importance and necessity of establishing and nurturing trusting relationships with each child’s family. This allows parents to be active participants in their child’s care. Prior to children beginning in our program, several visits are set up with the parent to discuss daily routines and the needs of the child. Parents are encouraged to bring items which are important and familiar to children from home for sleeping and eating. This allows the children to experience a “connection” between home and their time in our program. We begin each day greeting each child and parent and caregivers ask questions to enable parents to share information about their children at home. Through daily conversation, daily written communication, parent newsletters and information boards, caregivers establish the necessary lines of communication to meet each child’s specific needs and to ensure families are informed about their child’s daily care.

We believe that all daily routines in caring for the children provide us with the opportunity to form and foster relationships with them. Caregivers strive to create a special closeness and trust with each child by talking, cuddling and interacting with them during routines such as feeding times, snack time, naps, diapering, hygiene routines, dressing for outdoor play and playtimes. Verbal communication between caregivers and children is ongoing throughout the day to promote language development and relationships with caregivers and other children. Caregivers engage in singing, reading and role playing with children throughout the day.

We believe in the importance of a consistent routine for children, but also recognize the need for flexibility to accommodate children’s individual needs. Together with parents, an individual schedule is set up for each child based on regular feeding, sleeping and other daily routines to provide as much consistency between home and our program as possible. In addition to basic

caring giving routines, plenty of time for free play and exploration is provided throughout the day. Caregivers use both verbal and physical cues before any activity changes, giving them time to finish play or routines before moving on to the next activity.

We believe that very young children learn at their own pace through exploration of the world around them, interactions with others and sensory experiences. Our playroom is designed to allow children to move freely around the room and to explore toys and materials in their own unique way. Our “child friendly” playroom furniture and equipment enables children to have independent access to all materials. Caregivers focus on providing materials for children which promote creativity. Sensory experiences such as sand and water play and “messy” play are provided throughout the day. Materials such as books, musical instruments, blocks and manipulative toys are available to children daily for exploration. Caregivers ensure there is an adequate supply of equipment and play materials so children can explore on their own or with others. Caregivers talk to the children throughout their play experiences to promote language development, social and cognitive interactions. They also observe children’s use of materials to gain knowledge of children’s development and interests. The use of “real life” pictures and pictures of the children at play are displayed at the children’s level to promote visual learning.

We believe in the importance of active and outdoor play for young children. Caregivers provide individual and group large muscle activities and games for children throughout the day. Children are taken for walks daily to encourage the exploration of natural surroundings and are given opportunities to move around and explore freely in our outdoor play area.

We believe in the important of teaching and encouraging independence. We promote independence by providing opportunities for children to learn to feed and dress themselves, choose their own activities and participate in daily routines such as hand washing. Caregivers set out safe eating utensils during snack and lunch time and assist children in their use. When changing clothing or dressing for outdoor play, clothing is set out for children so they may choose clothing and are encouraged by caregivers to dress themselves with assistance. For hygiene routines, stepping stools are provided for children to step up to our low sinks with “hands free” taps. This allows children to wash their hands independently.

We believe that children are, by nature, accepting of others differences and embrace diversity. We respect and support the values, beliefs and culture of each child and their family. We respect each child as a unique individual and our program is inclusive of children of all abilities and backgrounds. By creating relationships with families we become aware of their diversities. Our program and physical environment are planned with all children in mind and ensure that play materials reflect diverse cultures and individuality. Our play materials include items such as books, dress up cloths, dolls, music and pictures which represent various cultures and backgrounds. We recognize the holidays and special observances of the families in our program during play and meal times and through hands on material provided by the family. We welcome children with additional support needs and caregivers work on individual plans to ensure inclusion in the regular program.

