



VILLAGE CHILD CARE INC. APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The following policy is meant to ensure that personnel privacy and the confidentiality of information about our Centre, children, parents/guardians, families and staff is upheld. Everyone involved with the Centre must adhere to this policy. Failure to do so can result in consequences and disciplinary action.

Staff may use the internet, when appropriate, to access information needed to conduct Centre business and are responsible for using the Internet in a manner that is ethical and lawful. E-mail is to be used for business purposes only. Staff, children and all others using the Centre's computers and electronic devices must respect and protect the privacy of others and must respect and protect the integrity of all electronic resources. All intellectual property (ideas, creations and copyrights) of others must be respected and protected. All communication must be in a respectful manner and the use or discovery of the use of any threatening or inappropriate material must be reported.

Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to:

- Intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying or creating material that violates the confidentiality of children, parents/guardians/caregivers, staff, or the Centre itself.
- Intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying or creating material that violates the Centre's Code of Conduct which includes messages that are pornographic, threatening, rude, harassing, bullying or discriminating.
- Intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying or creating material that is illegal, such as obscenity, stolen material or illegal copies of copyrighted works.
- Using the Centre's technological resources for personal use without permission or for personal gain.
- Information about staff, children, parents/guardians/caregivers and the Centre (including photos or videos) must not be posted on a staff person's personal web space, any social networking site such as blogs, Face book, MySpace, Twitter, any public networking or file sharing site such as Photo bucket, Flicker, You Tube or any other type of internet website.
- Staff must not accept children as "friends" or "buddies" when using social networking sites such as Face book or MSN.

- Authorized employees of the facility have the right to monitor the use of information technology resources and to examine, use and disclose any data found. They may use this information in disciplinary actions, and release to the police if it is criminal in nature.

CELL PHONE USE

- Staff may not use cell phones and other personal electronic devices when they are caring for and supervising children. Anyone who may need to contact a staff person during the staff member's regularly scheduled working hours must contact the Centre's direct line.
- If, for safety purposes, it is necessary for staff to take a personal cell phone during the course of outings and outdoor play with children, or when transporting/walking children to and from school, it must be used only for emergency contact with the Centre or the children's parents/guardians/caregivers.
- If it is necessary, and with the parent's/guardian's permission, for a staff person to use a cell phone or other electronic device to photograph or videotape children, the data must be downloaded onto the Centre's computer and immediately deleted from the staff person's phone or device.

VIOLATION BY STAFF OF THE ABOVE POLICY CAN RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.