

Q: Where will the new programs be sited?

A: We are building another level on top of our existing building.

Q: When will this take place?

A: Work is scheduled to begin on the 22nd June 2013 during our summer closure. The work will be completed on August 17th

Q: Will the new programs be fully licensed?

A: Yes

Q: Have you been approved by Licensing?

A: We will not require a new License because we have an existing License. We have submitted our floor plan for pre-approval to Interior Health and applied for an amendment to our original License. Our facility was visited by Licensing on 28 March 2013. We expect to be pre-approved before the building work is completed and we will be fully Licensed before we open. This is a legal requirement. No group facility can open without being approved and fully licensed.

Q: Will the new programs affect your current programs?

A: No. Our current preschool programs which have been in operation since September 2009 have been hugely successful and we have very happy children and families. We will be making no changes at all to our downstairs programs.

Q: Why are you creating new programs?

A: To meet the demands of our local community.

Q: Why are you creating a five morning preschool program?

A: There is a local demand for this program.

Q: Is there a difference between the 3 Session Morning Program and the 5 session Morning program.

A: No. The same daily routine and structure will continue, the only difference is that it will be 5 days rather than 3 days, with slightly longer class times which will allow a little more time for arts and crafts and outdoor play.

Q: Will my child have an advantage if they go every day?

A: I do not believe so. This program has been created simply to meet families needs. Every child is individual. Some children can find it difficult to transition from 3 half day sessions per week to 5 full days per week when they enter kindergarten. Other children make this transition just fine. There is no right or wrong. Each family knows their child best. We simply want to allow a family to have the choice.

Q: Will you create more parking places?

A: No. We have 12 Parking Places at the Preschool. We design all our programs to have a gradual entry (10 per time) to allow each family to have a parking place. Our new programs will start at 9am and 9.15am and will end at 12.30pm and 12.45pm.

Q: So why does the Car Park sometimes seem congested?

A: Some families come earlier than their child's pick up time. Some families stop and chat and spend more than the 15 minutes allotted time. Some families get held up and come a bit later.

Q: What about the afternoon program? It is not called Preschool, why?

A: The afternoon program is intended to provide additional care for working families who have to juggle all sorts of balls to get their child to preschool.

Q: How is it different from Preschool?

A: Preschool is very regimented and does not allow the flexibility that children will get from Pre-kindergarten care.

Q: Is the Pre-kindergarten care structured ?

A: Yes of course, children need structure and routine to make them feel safe and secure.

Q: Can you give an example?

A: The schedule is not as rigid. In preschool the expectation is that all children do art from 9.15am - 10.15am. In the Pre-kindergarten care program, this station will be open for the duration and children will choose when they will come

Q: Did you have circle time in the pre-kindergarten care program?

A: Yes, we will have a routine and schedule which will include free play, circle time, outside play, snack, story time. The main difference is the time frame and flexibility.

Q: Why do you separate the ages in Preschool but not in the pre-kindergarten care program.

A: Preschool is very goal oriented. The goal is to prepare the children for kindergarten. 3 Year old children are at a different place developmentally and we provide a different curriculum for each class.

In the Pre-Kindergarten care program, we do not see our main goal as preparation for kindergarten. We predict that most of the children will already have attending one of our morning Preschool sessions and therefore their needs in the afternoon will be quite different. We will play more of a nurturing role. For example doing things that they might do if they were at home. i.e Baking.

Q: What will happen if my child attends morning preschool?

A: They would stay on site with staff and have their lunch, they would then join the afternoon children when they arrive for afternoon Pre-Kindergarten care.

Q: Is this a year round program?

A: No. It is a ten month program. If there is a demand, we ask that you let us know and we will look at creating a summer program which would run in a completely different way.

Q: Do you need post dated cheques?

A: Yes. It will operate exactly like preschool. We will look to enrol the children for ten months at a time.

Q: What if I need to leave?

A: The same terms and conditions apply as per our handbook. We will require one months notice and all post dated cheques will be returned.

Q: Do we need to pay for closures?

A: Yes. We will follow the same preschool calendar that is published on our website. It is not that you pay for closures, it is simply that the annual costs of running each program is calculated on an annual basis then divided into ten.

Q: What if I only need two days per week?

A: Those days will be guaranteed and held for you as soon as you provide your post dated cheques.

Q: Do you accept subsidy?

A: Yes

Q: What if we are on holiday?

A: We hold the space whether the child attends or not which means that even if you are on holiday the same fees will apply.

Q: Who will teach these programs?

A: Nothing has been set in stone yet. We foresee Teacher Carolyn and Teacher Nina splitting up. This will allow each of us to ensure that we are training our new Preschool Teachers in the standards, structures and routines that our parents have become accustomed to and which we demand.

Q: Do you have teachers in place?

A: We have approached staff who are already employed in the field and feel confident that we have excellent choices to put into place?

Q: Is there a difference between an Assistant and a Fully Certified Teacher.

A: Yes. An assistant is still learning and is employed to assist a teacher. An assistant does not prepare the programming, design the arts and crafts, hold circle time. That is why it can be difficult to find a long term assistant. The role of a fully qualified Preschool Teacher is a completely different role.

Q: What is the Licensing Requirement?

A: For preschool, licensing requirements are one teacher per ten children. So in theory you can run a program with one Fully Qualified ECE and one assistant.

Q: Why do you employ two fully qualified ECE Teachers and one assistant.

A: Licensing set down minimum standards. We believe in excelling and we will be employing at least two additional fully qualified ECE Preschool Teachers in addition to Teacher Nina, Teacher Carolyn and Teacher Vanessa.

Q: I have other questions that you have not answered?

A: Please feel free to contact us via email at steppingstonespreschool@shaw.ca or phone us at 250 764 3667. We do not have the time to talk during our regular program but if you leave a contact number and message we will always be happy to call you back after 3pm.

Q: Can I have a tour?

A: Absolutely, we always recommend a tour before registering for any of our programs.