

Welcome To Dandelions



Welcome to the Dandelions Infant Toddler Program

"It is our mission to offer quality programs in a licensed early childhood education setting; we are committed to providing a safe, trusting and respectful environment for children, families, staff and the community"

This parent handout is to help introduce you to the program. The staff realizes that the transition for your child from home to a childcare centre can be a time of change and an unpredictable period. We hope that this package will help answer any questions you may have, as well as give you a glance into a typical day in the Dandelions program.



GOOD MORNING

- Doors open at **8:00am**, so please feel free to arrive anytime after that. Children are not to be left in a teacher's care until after this time.
- Upon entering our room, you will find a cubbie with a basket with your child's name on it. Please store your food in the basket on the top of the cubbie and the rest of their items in the cubbie space.
- Sign your child in on the sheet at the front door. **IT IS MANDATORY TO SIGN YOUR CHILD IN!** Please fill out all areas to help your teachers best understand how your child's day started.
- Please pack all diapers, diaper cream, and extra clothing into your child's basket in the change room.
- Drop off's can be difficult. Separation anxiety can start at a very young age. Please remember your teachers will help your child adjust by actively participating in an activity with them. One quick good-bye is the best way for your child to know you are leaving and will be back later. Sneaking out only delays the reaction, so it is best to say good bye. By sneaking out a child loses trust that the parent will return.
- Please pass on any information needed for that day to your teachers (early pick up, someone different picking child up, has a cold or a diaper rash ect...)

PICK UP

- The center closes at **5:30pm** so please have your child signed out, packed up and out of the building by this time. Please allow yourself 10-15 minutes to have them ready to go and to leave time to talk with a teacher about your child's day.
- Please sign your child out and read the communication white board that details information about your child's day.
- Please note that if anyone other than Mom or Dad will be picking up your child, we need to know that day. Also the person picking up will need photo ID in order for us to release the child to their care.

- Please remember there is a charge for late pick-ups. Teachers use their time at the end of the day for curriculum planning for the following day. As per the parent handbook, those who are late will receive a written warning the first time, followed by a late charge the next time, or \$10 for the first 15 minutes and \$1 per minute after that.



DANDELIONS TEACHERS:

Courtney Brown	Head Teacher	ECE/IT/SN
Gemma Elford	Teacher	ECE Assistant
Valerie John	Teacher	ECE

An early childhood educator is a teacher who works with young children in a classroom setting. This occupation emphasizes goals of early childhood education:

1. The focus of academically, socially, emotionally, and physically preparing child during this age range.
2. The focus of protecting and caring for the child in the absence of his/her primary care giver.
3. Develop and implement programs designed to meet children's social, physical, intellectual, creative, cultural, emotional and developmental needs and interests in a play-based environment
4. Build children's social and interpersonal skills and positive self-concept by establishing routines and positive guidance policies that allow children to feel secure, comfortable and safe
5. Establish and maintain good communication with children's families and community agencies involved in children's development.



You can teach a child a lesson for a day; but if you can get that child to learn by creating curiosity, that child will continue the learning process as long as he lives.

DAILY ROUTINE

The Dandelions teachers will adapt the routine to meet the needs of each individual child. If a child naps twice a day (AM and PM) we will adapt the daily routine to suit their day. We understand that each child is different and our daily routine is in place only as a guideline for the day.

Dandelions Daily Routine (8:00am to 5:30pm)

8:00 am	Dandelions Opens
8:00 - 9:40 am	Choice time-Free play time with different activities
9:40 - 9:45 am	Tidy up time
9:50 - 10:00 am	Large Group / Singing Time
10:00 - 10:05 am	Wash Hands
10:05 - 10:20 am	Am Snack time
10:20 am	Diaper routine / morning sleep routine
10:30 am	Getting ready for outside play
10:45 - 11:30 am	Outside play time
11:30 am	Wash Hands
11:45 am	Lunch time (Washing Hands First)
12:00 - 12:15 pm	Diaper Routine
12:20 - 3:00 pm	Sleep Time /Quiet Time / Small Group Time
3:00 pm	Diaper Routine
3:15 pm	Dress for Outside
3:20-4:00 pm	Outside Play Time
4:00 pm	Wash Hands
4:00 - 4:15 pm	Afternoon Snack
4:15 - 4:30 pm	Diaper Routine
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Play time/Activities/Parent Pick Up

WHAT TO BRING

*A complete set of extra clothes, appropriate to the season. Please make sure ALL ITEMS ARE LABELLED!! The Children's Centre uses Loveable Labels as a fundraiser:

<http://www.whistlerchildren.lovablelabels.ca/> if you'd like to order. A sharpie works great as well☺

*We play outside no matter what the weather is like (after all, it is Whistler) so please pack appropriately- rain gear, sun hats, mitts and toques.

*Diapers for your child (5-6 changes a day).

*5-6 photos of your child for records/labels in classroom and one family photo.

TOYS FROM HOME

Please bring along your child's special comfort items such as blankets, stuffed animals, and soothers. We do, however, prefer and ask that you keep toys at home. We have lots of toys and activities in the program and we don't want to mix them up with toys from home. Please remember to label any items you bring with your child to ensure they make it back home.

HOT LUNCHES / ALL DAY FOOD

Dandelions program holds many hot lunches throughout the month as well as "all day" food. Hot lunches are decided on ahead of time and usually will be marked down on your monthly classroom calendar. All proceeds from hot lunches and all day food goes to the classroom for items like photo development, field trips, children's Christmas presents and party favors.

All day food is something special that Dandelions does 3-4 times a month. It's a favorite day for many families☺

On this day parents pack only the child's sippy cups and bottles as all food and snacks are provided. The children help prepare and make their meals in a group setting and often eat and try things they have never had or liked before☺



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WHISTLER CHILDREN'S CENTRE IS A PEANUT FREE ZONE

SNACK and LUNCH

Our Dandelions need healthy and nutritious meal options to help them grow big and strong. We encourage you to pack numerous snack options for your child. Please be aware of any food items that may be choking hazards. Some foods need to be cut before we can give them to the child and we ask that everything comes prepared. Grapes, hotdogs etc need to be cut in half. **NO PEANUTS** for allergy purposes and **NO POPCORN** for the choking hazard please.

ARTS and CRAFTS

We offer the children an opportunity to experiment and explore with art materials. Please have a look around the classroom as we will put things up on display. We will also put pieces of art work in your child's cubbie for you to take home.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS SICK

It is very important that your child stays home when they are sick, as we don't want the other children in the program or teachers getting sick too! The Centre has certain policies regarding sickness, so please phone us to let us know what your child has, and to ask when your child can come back to the program. If your child has been sick in the morning and you administered medication before arriving to the centre, please let us know as we need to keep an eye on your child's symptoms throughout the day, especially at the time when the medication will be likely to wear off. If your child is no longer contagious and is able to come back to the program, but still needs medication, we can administer it for them as long as it is prescribed and you fill out the appropriate forms.



We are very excited to have your child and family in our program. Please remember if you have ANY questions, comments or concerns you can reach us in Dandelions at 604-932-1119 EXT # 4. We look forward to watching your child grow during their time with us.

