

RURAL FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Program Statement – Metcalfe Home Child Care

The Metcalfe Home Child Care is one of three programs under the Rural Family Connections Umbrella.

All programs under RFC use “Early Learning For Every Child Today”, (ELECT) as a guide to support curriculum and pedagogy in the early childhood settings. It features a continuum of developmental skills that support the home visitors as they work together with the children, the providers and the parents.

We also use “How Does Learning Happen?” (HDLH) as a professional learning resource guide about learning through relationships- for those working with young children and families. Both documents are on the Ministry of Education website and available from the Home Child Care office.

The home child care staff work with the understanding that “children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious and rich in potential”. Families are experts on their children and want the best for them. The home visitors will collaborate with the team and assist the provider in creating engaging environments and experiences that foster children’s learning and development.

OUR GOALS

a) We will promote the health, safety, nutrition and well being of children

Caregivers in their home will provide nutritious meals and snacks. They will use Canada’s Food Guide and other material supplied by the Home Child Care Agency as a resource. They will record the meals and snacks served on a calendar posted on their bulletin board, this board is accessible for the parents. Water will be offered to the child at any point during the day. Milk may be served at lunch.

All children registered provide a copy of their up to date immunization schedule.

Children, providers and home visitors practise a safe hand washing routine. We will look to Public Health to offer a workshop to providers.

b) We will support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents and providers.

The Home Visitor will find opportunities to observe the children and their interactions with their peers and the provider. The home visitor and provider will take the time to reflect on these interactions pointing out the positive and perhaps offering some helpful ideas on how to encourage this positive communication.

Notes will be made in the file if there are any significant observations.

We will plan a group info session that will cover this topic.

c) We will help the provider understand the importance of positive communication and interactions and the ability to self regulate.

We will suggest activities that encourage sharing. The home visitor will model appropriate techniques and language. We will encourage and help set the space and resources for group activities. We will encourage the provider to stand back and give the children a chance to work out an issue on their own. We will promote the use of a private quiet area for those children who need this space. We will model positive reinforcement in our interactions with the children. We will plan a group info session that will cover this topic.

d) We will foster the children’s exploration, play and inquiry.

We will make sure there are varied and sufficient resources, in the provider’s home. These resources will be easily accessed by the children. Many of the activities will be open ended i.e. loose parts. We will encourage the provider to be open to the children’s ideas. The agency has access to many resources; through our toy lending library, donations and purchases. We will offer an info session that will demonstrate how simple everyday things can be used to foster exploration, play and inquiry.

e) We will provide child initiated and adult supported experiences.

By providing resources such as glue, paint, markers, crayons, varied kinds of paper, and usable junk the child will easily initiate an activity. There should be many kinds of “building” resources available. The provider has an opportunity to lead ideas through music and stories during circle time. Various field trips could be taken in the neighbourhood. Playgroups could be visited. We will offer an info session that will cover this topic.

f) We will plan for and create positive learning environments and experience in which each child's learning and development will be supported.

The providers should present different manipulatives such as puzzles, pegboards, sorting items, threading materials and 'put-togethers' that will present a challenge and a feeling of competence for all the children. The home visitor will be able to assist with this task as they observe the children playing and discuss the continuum of skills in the ELECT document.

g) Our day will incorporate indoor and outdoor play as well as active play and rest and quiet time.

Every day weather permitting, the children will play outside (2 hours is recommended). This could include walks in the neighbourhood or walks to the playgroup. The indoor playtime will include activities which will vary from active to quiet focused time. All children should have a rest time, the length of time could vary with their age.

h) We will foster engagement of and ongoing communication with parents about the children and their program.

The home visitors will conduct an intake interview before the search for care begins. They will then take part in the match visit(s) between provider and parent. This helps build a stronger relationship with the parents. The agency will communicate with the parents regularly through emailed newsletters and information bulletins. We encourage providers to find the best way to communicate with parents. This could be through pictures sent to the parents, a communication log written between provider and parent. (this is encouraged when a new baby begins care). Notes could be written on their bulleting board for the parents to see.

i) There will be support from community partners.

The Home Child Care will engage with the other programs under the RFC umbrella-the Live and Learn Resource Centre and the Metcalfe Co-operative Nursery School. This partnership allows for the sharing of resources, buying partnerships and sharing of staff.

j) The home visitors and support staff will engage in continuous professional learning.

The agency will encourage home visitors and support staff to attend workshops or info sessions whenever possible and will cover the cost of replacement and registration.

k) The director and home visiting team will document the impact of strategies a to j on the children, their families and providers.

The director and home visitors will record observations that demonstrate how these goals are being met and how they are impacting the children and their families in the child's and provider's files. These strategies and observations will be discussed by the team as they reflect on the weeks visits.

Our Home Child Care Agency does not permit

1. Corporal punishment of a child;
2. Deliberate use of harsh language or degrading measures on the child that would humiliate the child or undermine his or her self-respect;
3. Depriving a child of basic needs including food, shelter, clothing or bedding;
4. Locking of the exits of the home child care premise for the purpose of confining the child;
5. Using a locked or lockable room or structure to confine a child if he or she has been separated from the other children.

Review and Monitoring

The home child care agency will use observations during home visits and safety inspections, team discussions and reflections, provider workshops, individual training sessions, the provider log books and a monthly newsletter to make sure the goals and approaches are being followed. If there are any contraventions of the policies and procedures or an occurrence of a prohibited practice; the team will meet, the director will conduct a direct conversation and/or the RFC board will be called to discuss the matter and decide on the next steps.

Home visitors and support staff will use the goals and methods in the PROGRAM STATEMENT as they discuss the case load (providers and children enrolled), new children waiting for care and new providers waiting to provide care to ensure;

1. There are enough resources available.
2. There is sufficient training for Providers.
3. There is appropriate equipment available.
4. There are appropriate training opportunities for home visitors.

These meetings are held on a regular/ as needed basis.

All providers, home visitors and support staff will sign the program statement annually or whenever there are significant changes made. All staff will sign before employment begins. All parents will be given a program statement and a parent handbook before care begins.