

CLG Program Statement



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Children's Learning Garden has put together this Program Statement as required by Ontario Regulation 137/15 of the Child Care and Early Years Act. In order to make this program statement, the following documents and resources have been consulted:

- Child Care and Early Years Act
- Ontario's Pedagogy for Early Years 2014, "How Does Learning Happen"
- Think, Feel and Act; Lessons from Research about young children 2013

CLG has set the goals for the children to be consistent with the Ministry of Education pedagogy that reflects the view of the children as competent, capable, curious and rich in potential. Our view of the child is as follows:

- Every child has a sense of belonging when he/she is connected to others and contributes to their world.
- Every child develops a sense of self, health and well-being.
- Every child is an active and engaged learner who explores the world with his body, mind and sense.
- Every child is a capable communicator who expresses himself/herself in many ways.

CLG has set forward the goals as prescribed by the CCEYA and described below are the approaches that will be taken to meet the goals.

a) CLG will promote the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of the children.

Health:

All program staff responsible for the children in a classroom at CLG will be trained/certified Montessori and/or Early Childhood Educators. Each staff member will be required to have First Aid and CPR training (including child CPR). All medication and other cleaning materials are kept safe and locked away from the reach of children. Emergency medications such as Epi-pen and puffers will be kept away from children but within reach of adults in case they are needed. Detailed policies and procedures are followed to manage illness as required by the Ministry and the Region of Peel.

The classrooms and the centre are cleaned regularly according to approved scheduled. Washrooms are cleaned after use and classrooms are cleaned before and after lunch and snack. All materials will be sanitized once a week and after they are mouthed in toddler classrooms. Cot sheets are washed once a week and/or when they become dirty.

Hand washing will be a regular practice before and after eating, after playing outside or whenever needed e.g., after sneezing or cleaning the nose. Instructions on proper techniques (prescribed by The region of Peel Health) will be posted near every sink and staff will model and guide as needed.

Safety:

All staff will be trained in safety protocols. Approved emergency policies and procedures have been documented and will be implemented at all times. Monthly fire drills will be held and recorded. Staff to student ratios will always be maintained and the children will never be left alone without an adult or

CLG Program Statement



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with a volunteer/placement student. The centre is locked so visitors can only enter by permission of the supervisor.

Nutrition:

CLG will provide two healthy snacks and one lunch daily. Early morning and late afternoon snack will be provided for children who are enrolled in the before and after school program. Lunch will be prepared by a certified food handler and there will always be one staff on premises with a Food Handler certificate.

Well-being:

Children will be given a balanced schedule where they have the opportunity to choose activities and play and rest according to their needs. A daily schedule is in place and will be followed so children feel comfortable and in control.

As stated in section 48 of Ontario Regulation 137/15, Children's Learning Garden prohibits the following prohibited practices:

- (a) corporal punishment of the child;
- (b) physical restraint of the child, such as confining the child to a high chair, car seat, stroller or other device for the purposes of discipline or in lieu of supervision, unless the physical restraint is for the purpose of preventing a child from hurting himself, herself or someone else, and is used only as a last resort and only until the risk of injury is no longer imminent;
- (c) locking the exits of the child care centre or home child care premises for the purpose of confining the child, or confining the child in an area or room without adult supervision, unless such confinement occurs during an emergency and is required as part of the licensee's emergency management policies and procedures;
- (d) use of harsh or degrading measures or threats or use of derogatory language directed at or used in the presence of a child that would humiliate, shame or frighten the child or undermine his or her self-respect, dignity or self-worth.
- (e) depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing or bedding; or
- (f) inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will

b) CLG will support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents, childcare providers and staff.

Staff will be welcoming and greeting the children every day and will be connecting with them to make them feel that they belong. Parents are welcome to book appointments to visit their child's classroom and book meetings with staff to discuss the growth and development of their children. Regular emails and newsletters will be emailed to inform parents of the events at the centre.

Staff will practice and encourage inclusive and positive interactions. Activities and play areas are never gender defined, rather all children are encouraged to experience all areas. Staff will foster an

CLG Program Statement



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environment of inclusion, cooperation, sharing and friendliness by modeling these traits in their dealing with children, parents and co-workers.

Regular staff meetings will be held for staff to connect with each other and reflect on their experiences to help children achieve their full potential. A detailed policy and procedures are in place to help staff and parents communicate in case of grievances.

c) CLG will encourage the children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate.

Staff will model the use of positive language and interactions at all times when talking to the children and other adults. Staff will work to help children to develop communication skills and problem-solving skills to help them become competent in using simple forms of communication (words, sign language, and body language) to communicate.

Staff will be modeling self-regulation by talking about the feelings and situations in a way that children can understand and try to imitate.

d) CLG will foster children's exploration, play and inquiry.

Even though the Montessori classroom has a variety of activities that engage children, staff at CLG will be looking out for cues from children about their interests and making activities to answer the questions of children and to help them think deeper and inquire more.

The activities in the class are in itself such that they allow the child to explore and play and while doing that they ask questions and then find answers to them. CLG believes that there is never a one way of doing things and that each child thinks and comprehends differently. Therefore, staff works with each child individually, according to their interests, needs, and abilities.

e) CLG will provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences.

The Montessori philosophy believes in setting the environment such that children get excited about the activities and choose what interests them and then guide them along to follow their interests and abilities. Each child develops at his/her own level and the staff support them in what he/she chooses to do and guides to higher levels according to the ability of the child.

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

Staff keeps a record of the activities that the child uses and enjoys and based on the observations, plans or adapts or creates new ones to maintain the child's interest in the environment.

g) CLG will incorporate indoor and outdoor play, as well as active play, rest and quiet time, into the day, and give consideration to the individual needs of the children receiving childcare

The guidelines of CCEYA will be followed to give children a balanced daily routine where children get a mix of outdoor time (minimum two hours), indoor play time, active play and rest time. Children will have a two-hour nap time in the afternoon after lunch but those who do not need to nap will be given some rest time followed by quiet activity time. The program is meant to follow the needs and the interests of the child thus a flexible routine is helpful in fulfilling the individual needs of the children.

CLG Program Statement



Date Created: April 14, 2020 Date Modified:

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

Parents are welcome to set appointments to visit their child's classroom and see the environment in action. Monthly newsletter will be sent via email to inform parents of ongoing and up coming events, themes, visits etc. An activity update can be sent to parents on a monthly basis to keep them informed about the interests of their child and the activities that he/she is engaged in. Parent-teacher meetings will be held once a year to discuss the growth and learning of the child, but parents are welcome to request a phone conversation or in person meeting with the classroom teacher or the supervisor at anytime.

i) CLG will involve local community partners and allow those partners to support the children, their families and staff.

CLG believes in bringing the community together to enhance the experiences for children. Therefore, we invite professionals to visit and share their work or interests with children. This could include, authors, illustrators, dentists etc. Parents who are able to visit and share their work and profession with the children are always welcome.

In addition to this CLG will plan supervised visits to local places such as libraries, fire station, grocery stores to enhance the experience of the children and connect to the community.

j) CLG will support staff in relation to continuous professional learning

CLG believes in lifelong learning for everyone. CLG plans to connect with CDRCP in Mississauga, to benefit from their extensive trainings on a variety of subjects and topics for all the staff. In addition, mini training sessions on topics most related to the experiences of the staff will be done during the monthly staff meetings. CLG is open to on-site, online and off-site trainings, which ever benefit the staff.

k) CLG will document and review the impact of the strategies set out in the above goals on the children and their families

All classroom incharges will use documentation and reflection to continually evaluate our program and its effects on the children. Each program/class will use a binder for observations, plans and documentation to support understanding and used to adapt and improve the plans/activities according to the interests and needs of the children.

CLG will use the pedagogical documentation, i.e., take observation notes and then take time to think about them and then reflect on them to help improve the program.

Staff, placement students and volunteers will read this program statement and sign off prior to interacting with the children, when the statement is updated and on an annual basis. The director will review the document and update based on feedback and reflections given by the staff to improve it and make it beneficial in following the regulations of CCEYA.