



Program Statement 2019

Alpha's Discovery Kids Preschool and Daycare follows the guidelines set out in the Ministry of Education's "How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (2014)" in order to create a quality early years program for children 12 months to 5 years old.

At Alpha's Discovery Kids, we believe that all children are competent, capable, curious and rich in potential. We strive to help each child reach their potential in a warm, inclusive environment where every child is valued for their individual strengths. We are truly committed to each and every child. We have created an exceptional program to develop the whole child through an emergent, inquiry-based curriculum. We provide child-initiated and teacher-supported learning experiences to foster children's natural curiosity, exploration, play and inquiry. We observe and follow the children's individual interests and plan experiences to maximize learning and children's well-being.

Our programming is organized around four foundations that children naturally seek for themselves to learn and grow: **Belonging, Well-Being, Engagement and Expression.**

Well-Being

Before a child can be engaged or express themselves, they need to feel safe and develop a sense of self, health and well-being. Our goal at Alpha's Discovery Kids is to nurture children's healthy development and support their growing sense of self by providing a clean, safe environment, nutritious meals, physical activity and an opportunity for quiet/rest time.

Health and Safety

We create positive learning environments that promote the health, safety and well-being of children. As a licensed centre, we meet and strive to exceed all Ministry of Education and local Health and Safety Regulations and Guidelines to provide a clean and safe environment for the children. We do this by conducting health and safety checks of all indoor and outdoor play spaces on a daily basis. We clean and sanitize toys and equipment on a daily basis and ensure proper hand-washing routines are followed. We perform health checks when children arrive and have policies in place to ensure that sick children stay home. Our teachers are all trained in First Aid to ensure children receive proper care. We arrange our classrooms to maximize safety and inspect classrooms regularly to ensure that all toys and equipment are in good working condition.

Nutrition

We offer nutritious meals and snacks that follow Canada's Food Guide to healthy eating. Our meals incorporate all the food groups and our menus are reviewed by a registered dietician. We post our menus on our website for parents to view. We can accommodate any



special dietary requirements for all the children in our program. We offer flexibility and provide substitutions for picky eaters to ensure that they have had enough to eat. Meal times are a great opportunity to develop self-help skills and we encourage children to be independent, based on their capabilities. We create a positive family-style eating environment and encourage conversation.

Physical Activity

We provide opportunities for outdoor play twice per day. We have created a safe and stimulating outdoor play space which offers various challenges to develop physical skills such as throwing/kicking a ball, climbing, jumping, running and pedaling a tricycle. We provide opportunities for children to explore the outdoors with their minds, bodies and their senses. In the event that we cannot use the outdoor space, the teachers develop a variety of physical activities indoors to encourage physical well-being. Inside the classroom, we encourage children to be physically active through various activities such as music and movement. In addition, once per week, our preschool classes engage in a special physical activity program that encourages advanced movement activities through dance, martial arts and mindful stretching.

Rest and Quiet Time

We believe it is important for young children to have an opportunity to rest and have some quiet time to maintain their well-being. Throughout the day, we incorporate mindfulness activities to help children feel calm and focused. Children are given an opportunity for rest or quiet time in the afternoon each day. Children who do not want to sleep are given quiet table activities such as reading books, writing and puzzles.

Engagement

Alpha's Discovery Kids offers an emergent curriculum that achieves academic success by observing children and following children's interests to build critical skills. We focus on communication skills such as language and literacy as well as skills required for the digital age such as science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). Beginning in preschool, we also offer basic French language activities to introduce children to a new language. We build all of these skills through inquiry-based activities, exploration and discovery in a positive learning environment.

Exploration and Inquiry

We believe that children learn through meaningful inquiry-based play experiences. Play experiences are a child's work. While participating in an activity, a child is constructing knowledge and learning about the world around them. At Alpha's Discovery Kids, we have created a learning environment that encourages children to freely explore and choose which materials they would like to use independently in each planned interest area such as blocks, reading, writing, dramatic, science, sensory and art areas. While exploring in the interest areas, children will develop physical, cognitive, language and social skills. This is the ideal learning environment as children are encouraged to explore, inquire and make choices



and decisions whenever possible. Teachers work with each child individually to build on their strengths and support their development.

Communication Skills -Language and Literacy

We build the communication skills that children will need to be successful. We focus on building literacy skills through programs such as the highly acclaimed Jolly Phonics literacy program. Learning to speak, read and write are vital skills for children. The Jolly Phonics program has been proven to encourage early reading and writing skills in a fun, playful and creative way. The Jolly Phonics program focuses on learning letter sounds and formation through songs, then blending those sounds to read words. We incorporate language and literacy in all aspects of the program to enhance learning.

STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math

We are proactive and progressive when it comes to learning. We focus on skills in the early years that we know will be critical to their academic success in the digital age. At Alpha's Discovery Kids, we encourage children to develop a sense of curiosity about the world around them and how things work. We use the scientific process to solve problems. We use technology wisely to enhance learning. We engage in engineering projects where children build and construct things of interest to them. Art is an essential component that allows children to use their creativity to express themselves and solve problems. We build fundamental math skills such as problem solving, predicting, matching, sorting, counting and spatial awareness.

Creative Expression

Our learning environment is designed to encourage children to explore using their natural curiosity about the world around them as well as express themselves creatively through music, dance and visual art. They independently use various mediums to express themselves in creative ways. Children participate in an age-appropriate award-winning Kindermusik program once per week.

Languages

Our students come from various backgrounds and speak many different languages. Many parents recognize the importance of introducing children to Canada's second official language, French. Our preschool offers French language activities every day starting at the age of 2.5 years. Children love to sing French songs to learn the alphabet, numbers, colours and basic words to communicate in French.

Positive Learning Environment

In order for children to thrive, they need to be in a stimulating environment that meets their daily needs. Our bright and cheerful classrooms offer a wealth of opportunities to explore and spark the child's curiosity and inquiry. Equipment, toys and books are selected to help develop skills including problem solving, literacy, independence and social skills. Our indoor and outdoor spaces are designed to promote active exploration and learning opportunities.



Our stimulating learning environment is focused on supporting the child's learning and development.

Teachers at Alpha's Discovery Kids create positive learning environments that meet the unique needs of the children in the classroom. Teachers regularly make adjustments to the classrooms to respond to children's needs and create an inviting space for everyone. Schedules are flexible to allow more time for activities that children enjoy and minimize transition times as much as possible. Alpha's Discovery Kids strives to create an inclusive environment for children of various abilities and cultures. Our classrooms reflect our diverse community.

Expression

It is only when a child feels loved and secure that they will develop the confidence to express themselves, explore and learn. Children are encouraged to interact and communicate in a positive way. We encourage the development of self-regulation in each child.

Positive Relationships among Children and Teachers

Our teachers are hand-picked for their loving, gentle nature and wealth of experience working with children. Our teachers are co-learners and play partners for the children, which helps to extend and expand on their learning experience. We use positive language, consistency, give choices and become "tuned-in" to children's needs and emotions. Our teachers respond to both verbal and non-verbal communication. When it comes to the preschool and daycare environment, we know that qualified ECE teachers play an important role in supporting children's learning and providing the child with a nurturing, caring and positive role-model. Our teachers build trust with children by consistently meeting their needs on a daily basis. We model appropriate ways to resolve conflicts, encourage problem solving strategies and develop responsibility while developing social skills.

Partnerships with Parents

We know that parents know best when it comes to their children. We develop partnerships with parents to ensure that we meet the individual needs of each child. Communication with parents is very important to us and we communicate with parents daily. We offer daily digital and verbal reports, including photo sharing, learning experiences, classroom updates and monthly newsletters. We also utilize social media and encourage parents to follow us on Facebook and Instagram as well as our blog posts on our website. Parents are welcome to visit the facility at any time of the day and we encourage participation and suggestions to improve our program. Our teachers work with families as a team. We foster relationships based on trust - between parents, teachers and children - working together as a team.

Positive Self-Regulation

At Alpha's Discovery Kids, we encourage children to develop self-regulation skills. Through mindful activities, they learn how to remain calm and return to a state of calm in stressful



situations. This allows them to control their emotions, pay attention and ignore distractions. Our teachers coach children on how to handle stress and support them in expressing their emotions.

Belonging

Children demonstrate a sense of belonging when they feel included and safe in the program. We aim to develop partnerships between children, parents, teachers and the community to support children.

Community Partners

We believe that it takes a community to raise a child and we form partnerships with various community-based organizations to support our families and children. We partner with organizations in our local community like the local library as well as Erin Oak, Community Living and Peel Inclusion Resource Services (PIRS). We are members of the Raising the Bar Program in Peel and work with the Region of Peel, Child Development Resource Connection Peel (CDRCP), Region of Halton, Halton Resource Connection (THRC) and many other community-based programs. We connect parents to resources in the community to meet the needs of each child. We partner with colleges and universities to give students and volunteers the opportunity to experience working with children under our supervision.

Supporting Staff Learning

Alpha's Discovery Kids is committed to hiring and training teachers to reach their full potential by providing continuous learning opportunities. Our teachers regularly attend training sessions to expand on their knowledge of child development and learn new strategies to teach children. Our ECE teachers are registered members of the College of Early Childhood Educators as well as other professional associations related to the child care field.

Documentation

Alpha's Discovery Kids uses pedagogical documentation as a way for our teachers to learn about the children. Teachers make observations of children and use this information to plan the program for each child individually as well as for the group. Teachers use the documentation to reflect on what the children are learning as well as how to extend that learning further. This documentation is used to communicate children's learning to the parents. Each child's documentation includes photos, videos and notes made by the teachers.

Alpha's Discovery Kids Preschool and Daycare Program Statement is reviewed by all new staff, students and volunteers at the start of their placement/employment. The Program Statement is communicated to all parents when they start at the centre and when any changes have been made. The Program Statement is reviewed annually by all staff or when any changes have been made.



Approved by Alpha's Discovery Kids Preschool and Daycare on: July 20, 2016
Updated: April 29, 2019

Please sign and return to Office. Thank you.

I/We the undersigned acknowledge that we have read the Program Statement of Alpha's Discovery Kids Preschool and Daycare.

Print Name

Signature

Date: _____

Office:

Date Received _____

Supervisor Signature _____