



# Nursery & Preschool Curriculum Statement

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**At MACCPF we provide a flexible environment that supports play based learning.** We recognize that all areas of our program support physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth. This is reflected in indoor and outdoor play, exploring nature and includes field trips and invited visitors. Utilizing these tools, we provide learning opportunities for children, ensuring that the majority of their day is spent as active engaged learners within defined areas. Children are encouraged to explore and learn through their own decision making and problem solving. Early Childhood Educators (ECE's) and caregivers observe children while talking and interacting with them during play and activities. By being aware of the children's interests and development, educators are able to incorporate these ideas into play areas, activities and routines.

**We believe that children are curious and love to play.** These play experiences allow children to learn and foster new skills in all areas of their growth and development. We provide free play opportunities throughout the day in a variety of learning centres such as Daily Living, Sand/Water, Blocks, Art, Music, Science, Carpentry and Library etc. Children have opportunities to choose where they wish to play. ECE's and educators remain nearby to interact with the children by asking open-ended questions and assisting with interactions with their peers. In this way, based on the children's interests and cues, caregivers are able to extend the play by adding, changing and moving play materials from one area to another. Through these interactions children learn to express themselves, make their own choices and develop problems solving skills and independent thinking.

**We believe that children benefit from a wide variety of learning experiences based on their interests.** We offer a stimulating environment with a program that is based both on the interests of the children and their developmental needs. Our daily schedule ensures that educators extend and enhance learning through both planned and spontaneous activities, both one-on-one and in a group setting. Planned activities such as Circle Time offers the children activities based on their interests and development in a smaller group. These activities focus on encouraging children to develop and advance their physical, social, emotional and cognitive skills. Spontaneous activities take place as educators offer suggestions, additional play materials and ideas to children to extend and enhance ongoing activities and play. Planned activities along with pictures are posted weekly on our Web Site, Parent Board and spontaneous activities are shared with parents through daily communication and daily postings.

**We believe that the way we arrange our play space is an important component in successful, interactive play amongst the children and between children and educators.** ECE's and educators regularly evaluate all areas of the play areas to ensure things such as furniture size and placement of equipment and materials is carefully planned in order to promote social interaction and allow staff optimal room awareness. Play materials are organized and displayed through the use of pictures, baskets and other visual cues so children feel confident, learn sorting, matching, visual recognition and self help skills.



**We believe that children need to feel successful as they learn.** Recognizing this, caregivers provide diverse opportunities and experiences that lead to feelings of success and competence. Through observation and planning, all children are provided with opportunities to explore their world at each one's individual level. ECE's and educators verbally acknowledge children's accomplishments, listen to children, encourage conversation about their interests and interactions and promote problem solving and positive interactions with others.

**We believe that children need to feel safe, secure and have a sense of belonging.** Our ECE's and educators are nurturing, caring individuals who provide a daily routine of activities which allow children to feel comfortable in the predictability of the schedule throughout their day while ensuring that safety is paramount. Our daily schedule and routines are consistent and children are given verbal cues before any routine or activity changes. This provides sufficient time to finish play and activities before moving on to the next activity. Regular routines such as hygiene, snack and meals times as well as preparation for outdoor time help promote and teach the children self help skills, self regulation as well as fine motor and language skills. Our daily program schedule is discussed at each staff meeting and based on the needs of the children; adjustments are made to support the changing needs of the children both individually and as a group.

**We believe that children are, by nature, accepting of others differences and embrace diversity.** We respect each child as a unique individual with the rights to attention, love respect and quality care. Our program is inclusive of children of all abilities and backgrounds. We welcome children with additional support needs and staff work on individual program plans to ensure inclusion within the program. In addition, our program recognizes the importance of ensuring that the educators that we employ are reflective of the diversity of our population. Program activities as well as the environment are planned with all children in mind by ensuring that play materials and equipment reflect diverse cultures and individuality. Our play materials include such items as books, dress up clothes, food, music and pictures which represent various cultures and backgrounds. Educators also include holiday celebrations that reflect these cultures.

**We believe in the importance of effective communication in order to ensure that there is a sense of belonging.** We appreciate the necessity of building and fostering relationships with children, families, schools, outside agencies and the community at large. Beginning each day with a greeting by name to each of the children and their family members and daily conversation, educators establish the necessary lines of communication to meet each child's specific need and to keep families informed of their child's day. An up to date web site, daily conversation, parent newsletters, parent boards, communication books, telephones as well as e-mail are all avenues of ensuring that information is shared. Beyond the regularly scheduled day, we also engage families through Family Games Evenings, Portfolio Days and Special Holiday events etc.

**We believe in the importance of a well-educated team of ECE's and educators.** We value the learning opportunities that our ECE's provide to the children. Educators who foster children's growth and development have the opportunity to support parents in order to shape well-rounded individuals who will one day contribute to their communities. Frequent opportunities are offered and minimum educational opportunities are required to ensure that our staff are knowledgeable in current research in order to ensure that children receive optimum appropriate learning opportunities throughout the day.