

Directly Operated
School Age Programs

Family Guide



Providing quality care since 2020

School Age Programs

Mapleridge Public School, Powassan

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Sundridge Centennial Public School, Sundridge

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Table of Contents

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

| | |
|--------|---|
| Page 2 | Welcome Message |
| Page 2 | Directly Operated Child Care Programs Purpose Statement |
| Page 3 | <i>How Does Learning Happen?</i> , Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years |
| Page 3 | Program Statements |
| Page 3 | Ontario Ministry of Education Licensing and Quality Assurance Branch |
| Page 4 | Program Staff |
| Page 4 | Students and Volunteers |

2.0 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|--------|---|
| Page 5 | Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care System, Fees, and Billing |
| Page 6 | School Age Programs |
| Page 6 | Child Care Fee Subsidy |
| Page 6 | Program Closures |
| Page 7 | Admission and Discontinuation of Service |
| Page 7 | Waiting List Policy |
| Page 8 | Family Concern and Complaint Process |
| Page 9 | Lillio – The Childcare App |
| Page 9 | Safe Arrival and Departure |

3.0 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN

| | |
|---------|---|
| Page 9 | Sanitary Practices and Infectious Disease Control |
| Page 10 | Ill Children |
| Page 10 | Drug and Medication Administration |
| Page 11 | Allergies and Medical Needs |
| Page 12 | Emergency Management |
| Page 12 | Off-Premises Activities |
| Page 13 | Supervision of Children |
| Page 13 | Prohibited Practices |
| Page 13 | Inclusion of Children with Differing Abilities |
| Page 13 | Nutrition and Menu Planning |
| Page 14 | Requests for Information |

4.0 APPENDICES

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Page 14 | Safe Arrival and Dismissal Policy |
|---------|-----------------------------------|

5.0 RESOURCES

| | |
|---------|--|
| Page 17 | Resources |
| Page 18 | Directly Operated Child Care Program Directory |

Welcome Message

Welcome to the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board and the Directly Operated Child Care Programs. We directly operate a variety of child care programs to support your family including Early Learning and Child Care Centres, Home Child Care Program, EarlyON Child and Family Programs, and Inclusion Support Services. For more information on any of these or other services please contact the program supervisor, and they will gladly help you. The School Age Program operates as a contracted third-party service with the Near North District School Board (NND SB). The Ministry of Education has mandated that all school boards in the province of Ontario must offer a School Age Child Care Program where it has been deemed viable and the NND SB has opted to meet this mandate through contracting with other child care operators.

Our Directly Operated Child Care Programs offer quality learning opportunities based on the belief that children are “competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential”. (*How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years*, p.6). Our programs value and build on each child’s individual strengths, interests, and abilities, while being grounded by the six principles found in the publication *Early Learning for Every Child Today: A framework for Ontario early childhood settings (ELECT 2007)*:

- Principle 1: Positive experiences in early childhood set the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour, health, and well-being.
- Principle 2: Partnerships with families and communities are essential.
- Principle 3: Respect for diversity, equity, and inclusion is vital.
- Principle 4: An intentional, planned program supports learning.
- Principle 5: Play and inquiry are learning approaches that capitalize on children’s natural curiosity and exuberance.
- Principle 6: Knowledgeable, responsive, and reflective educators are essential.

(ELECT, pp.7-20)



How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years

The School Age Programs plan and implement programs based on the foundations contained in the Ontario Ministry of Education document *"How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years"* (HDLH 2014) which states:

"Children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential. They grow up in families with diverse social, cultural, and linguistic perspectives. Every child should feel that he or she belongs, is a valuable contributor to his or her surroundings, and deserves the opportunity to succeed. When we recognize children as capable and curious, we are more likely to deliver programs and services that value and build on their strengths and abilities." (HDLH, 2014)



Program Statements

Each Directly Operated Child Care Program has an individual Program Statement that is reflective of the program's current philosophy, values, and daily program practices. The Program Statement is regularly reviewed and updated as programs evolve based on the most current research and feedback from families, staff and other professionals supporting the child care program. You will be provided with a Program Statement when you enroll your child in one of our programs and following significant revisions or you can visit <https://www.psdssab.org/index.php/our-programs/childrens-services/licensed-child-care-centers/>.

Ontario Ministry of Education Licensing and Quality Assurance Branch

As licensed early learning and child care programs, each program is bound by legislative and regulated requirements as set out under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) and Ontario Regulation 137/12 (O.Reg.137/15). Ministry of Education program advisors assess compliance with the licensing requirements during annual inspections of each program. For further information on the licensing requirements and process please visit <http://edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/>.

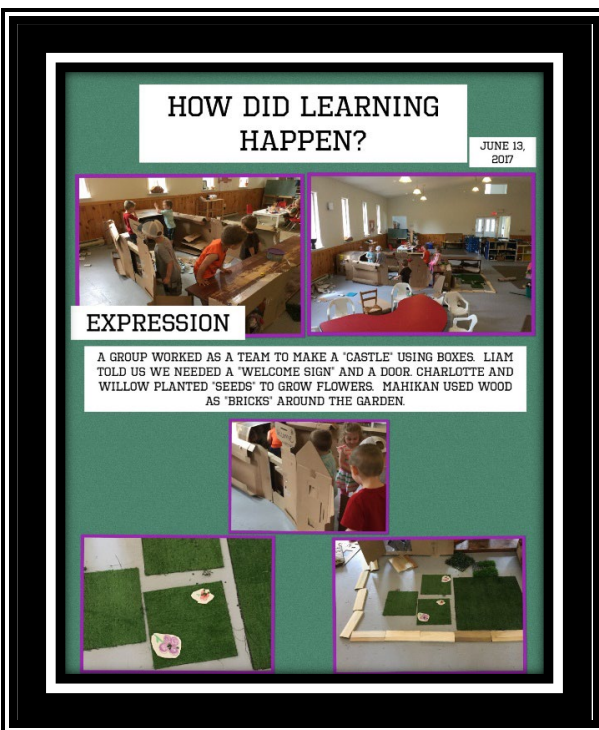
Each licensed early learning and child care program receives additional inspections from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit to ensure that all health and safety regulations set out by the Ontario Ministry of Health are followed.

Program Staff

All program staff participate in ongoing professional development throughout the year to enhance their skills and knowledge. Each program has Registered Early Childhood Educators (R.E.C.E.) that are members of the *College of Early Childhood Educators* which is a regulatory body formed to protect the public interest and focus on quality and standards in the field of early childhood education. All program staff are required to complete a Vulnerable Sector Check through the local police department and be certified in Standard First Aid and Infant/Toddler CPR, as well as, Safe Food Handlers.

Students and Volunteers

Our programs support local Community College Students, High School Co-Op Students, and Community Volunteers. All students and volunteers are required to complete a Vulnerable Sector Check or a Criminal Record Reference Check and review the applicable policies and procedures prior to commencement of their placement. Students and Volunteers are always monitored by program staff.



Program Administration

Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care System (CWELCC)

In July 2022, all the DSSAB Directly Operated Child Care Programs opted-in to the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care System (CWELCC). Fee reduction through the CWELCC is for children under six years of age (and any child who turns six years old between January 1st and June 30th in that calendar year). The first required fee reduction came into effect July 1, 2022, and a further fee reduction took effect on December 30, 2022. The final required fee reduction to reach an average fee of \$10.00 per day will be made prior to September 2026.

DIRECTLY OPERATED SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS PARENT FEE SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN 6 YRS. AND UNDER AS OF JUNE 30

| <u>BASE FEES</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>FEE</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| BS | Before School | \$10.50 (Mapleridge only) |
| AS | After School | \$12.00 |
| B&A S | Before and After School | \$12.00 (Mapleridge only) |
| Rec. | Summer Full Day | \$25.04 (Mapleridge only) |
| <u>Non-Base Fees</u> | | |
| | Late Pick-Up Fee (billed in 15-minute increments) | \$10.00 |
| | Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) | \$25.00 (per occurrence) |

DIRECTLY OPERATED SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS PARENT FEE SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN 6 YRS. AND OVER AS OF JULY 1

| <u>CODE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>FEE</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| BS | Before School | \$12.00 (Mapleridge only) |
| AS | After School | \$16.00 |
| B&S S | Before and After School | \$28.00 (Mapleridge only) |
| Rec | Full Day | \$56.00 (Mapleridge only) |
| <u>Non-Base Fees</u> | | |
| | Late Pick-Up Fee (billed in 15-minute increments) | \$10.00 |
| | Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) | \$25.00 (per occurrence) |

1. Upon enrollment, families will turn on "autopay" through the Lillio (formerly HiMama) Application and input their preferred method of payment and banking information, either automatic withdrawal or credit card. A user fee may be applied to credit card payments.
2. Enrollment will be confirmed, and families will be charged the parental daily rate for each day the child is enrolled regardless of the reason for any absences.
3. There will be an annual fee increase of children 6 years and older. Families will receive notice of the fee increases prior to them taking effect.
4. Families will have access to their monthly invoice in Lillio by the 12th day of the following month and payments will be applied on the 15th day of the month. Note, some financial institutions require 3-5 business days to process automatic withdrawals.

5. Income tax receipts for all payments received will be sent early the following year.
6. Failure to pay monthly child care fees will result in immediate suspension of child care services.
7. There will be a \$25.00 service fee charge for Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) and failure to pay will result in immediate suspension of child care services.
8. Child Care programs require two-week written notice for any changes to the child's enrollment or discontinuation of services.
9. School Age programs may be unable to accommodate part-time and/or flexible scheduled care. Please check with the program supervisor for space availability.

School Age Programs

There are three school age programs currently under contract with the Near North District School Board.

Sundridge After School Program operates out of Sundridge Centennial School and Mapleridge Before and After School Program operates out of Mapleridge Public School in Powassan. Both programs operate during the school year, September to June, and are closed when schools are closed. No care is offered during March Break, PA Days, or Summer Holidays. Before school care opens at 7:30am and after school care closes at 5:30pm.

Mapleridge Summer School Age Program is offered independently of the Mapleridge Before and After School Program and is available to children 4-6 years of age only. Children will need to be enrolled in this program separately, regardless of their enrollment in other before and after school programs. The summer school age program operates July and August, Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 5:30pm. Children are required to bring their own brown-bag lunches each day.

Child Care Fee Subsidy

Child Care Fee Subsidy supports families that are deemed eligible based on the family's income. Families can contact the Child Care Fee Subsidy office at 705-746-7777/1-800-461-4464 ext. 5277 or email subsidy@psdssab.org . Families may also apply through the District of Parry Sound OneHSN website link located at www.psdssab.org .

Program Closures

1. All Directly Operated School Age Programs will be closed on the following statutory holidays:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| New Year's Day | Civic Holiday |
| Good Friday | Labour Day |
| Family Day | Thanksgiving Day |
| Easter Monday | Christmas Day |
| Victoria Day | Boxing Day |
| Canada Day | |

2. In addition, all programs will be closed during the designated school board winter statutory school holidays, PA Days, and summer holidays.
3. School Age Programs will make every effort to remain open on school board declared snow days provided staff can travel safely to and from the school. Any necessary program closures will be announced through the Lillio App so please be attentive.
4. Families will not be charged for program closures.

5. Families will be notified by telephone should a program need to close for emergency reasons. In this circumstance, if a parent or guardian cannot be notified, the identified Emergency Contact for that child will be called.
6. As declared by the Ministry of Education, child care programs may close up to one day per calendar year for staff professional training. Every effort will be made to notify families of this closure date and families will not be billed for program closures.
7. Summer Rec Programs will be announced after March if we are able to operate.

Admission & Discontinuation of Services

1. School Age Programs offer child care services for children ages 3.8 – 12 years of age.
2. It is strongly recommended that families visit the child care program prior to enrolling your child. Program supervisors and staff will be happy to provide your family with a tour of the program and discuss your care needs.
3. Families are required to apply for child care spaces through the District of Parry Sound OneHSN website located at www.psdssab.org and the application will be forwarded to the program or programs selected by the family.
4. When a space becomes available, the family will be contacted by the program selected.
5. Each family must complete the Enrollment Package and sign all required documents prior to the first day of care. *Please note, each child attending a child care program must have up-to-date immunizations or a letter of confirmation from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit that an Affidavit of Exemption has been granted on file with their school.*
6. Families will have 14 days from notification that a space is available to complete the enrollment process. After 14 days, the space may be offered to the next eligible family on the waiting list.
7. Once all required documentation has been reviewed, the program supervisor or staff member will contact the family to arrange a start date for your child.
8. Two weeks written notice is required any time your child care needs change including days and/or hours to attend, or discontinuation of services. If two weeks is not provided, you will be billed for the days enrolled up to 10 days to cover the notification period.
9. In order to accommodate families and maximize the spaces at the child care program, we may be unable to accommodate part-time and/or flexible care schedules. Any current part time families may be asked to either increase the number of days or change the days being used.

Waiting List Policy

The child care program strives to meet the needs of the children and their families to make space available as soon as possible, but from time to time the child care program may have a waiting list for services due to high demand. We will never charge a fee to be placed on the waiting list.

Please Note: Children in emergency or crisis situations may be enrolled immediately as space is available.

Placement on the waiting list will depend on the following priorities:

Children waiting for care in the Before and/or After School Program

- Children currently enrolled in before school care, if offered, or after school care and requiring additional care
- Siblings of children currently enrolled
- Families working or attending school, requiring care Monday - Friday in before or after school care or both
- Families requiring part-time care depending on space availability

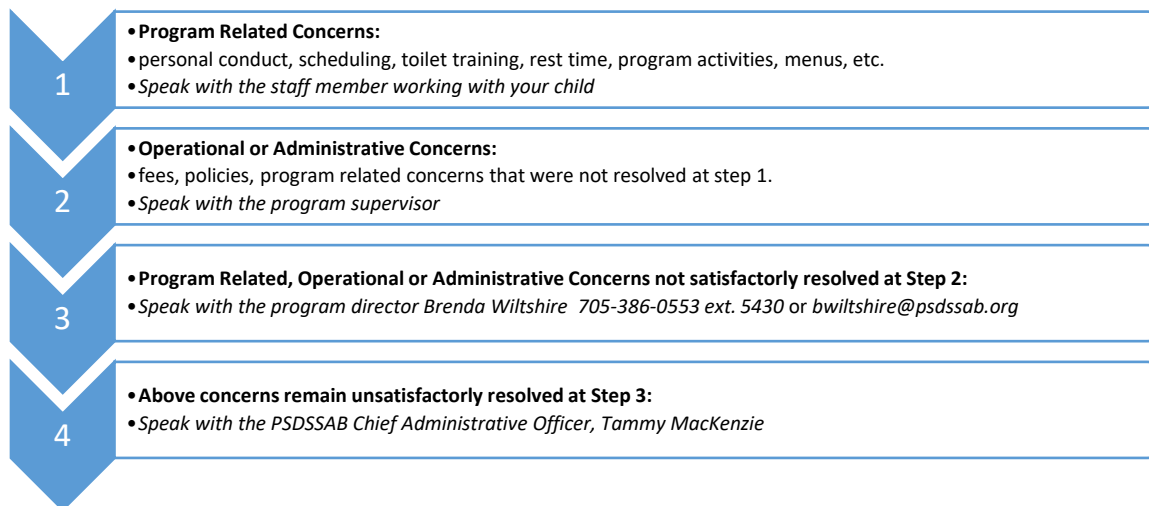
Summer School Age Program

- Children between 4 – 6 years of age and currently enrolled in one of our before and/or after school care programs.
- Siblings between 4 – 6 years of age of a child enrolled in the Summer School Age Program
- Families working or attending school, requiring care Monday - Friday
- Families requiring part-time care depending on space availability

Families may contact the program supervisor to inquire their child’s placement on the waiting list and will be given the information in a manner that maintains the privacy and confidentiality of the families listed.

Family Concern and Complaint Process

All child care programs have a welcoming open-door environment where families are encouraged to take an active role in the program. Should a family have a concern about the program operations or administration, please bring them forward verbally or in writing and you will receive a response within 5 working days. If a resolution requires more time, the person who raised the concern will be kept informed throughout the process. Every effort will be made to protect the privacy of the families, children, staff, placement students and volunteers except where information must be disclosed for legal reasons, for example CAS.



Concerns related to a child care program’s compliance with the regulations set out in the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* must be reported to the Ministry of Education’s Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch at **1-877-510-5333** or childcare_ontario@ontario.ca.

Lillio-the-Childcare App

Each family will receive a welcome package and login information for the *Lillio-the Childcare App* when they enroll a child in a child care program. All Directly Operated Child Care Programs use the Lillio Application to invoice and collect child care fees, therefore, families are required to download the application. This application also allows staff and families to relay information on the child's progress, daily activities, and other important documentation. It is at no additional cost to the family. Any family wishing to continue receiving information about their child's day without using the Lillio App will regularly receive written notices. Please continue to call or text the child care program to report absences and other time-sensitive information.

Please be aware that the child care programs use Lillio to enroll children, take attendance, track menu changes and other Ministry of Education required documentation for all children enrolled in the program. This information is confidential and will not be shared unless legally required to meet Ministry of Education regulations and licensing requirements.

Safe Arrival and Departure

To ensure that your child is safely entering the child care program it is important that the family members dropping the child off escort the child in to the indoor or outdoor play space and speaks with a staff member to ensure a smooth transition. If your child is scheduled to arrive after school, you must call or message the School Age Program with any changes or absences so they will not be expecting your child to attend. Please do not rely on school personnel to relay this information.

At time of enrollment, each family will identify who may pick the child up at the end of the day in place of the parent or guardian, and in the case of an emergency where the parent or guardian cannot be reached. Each person identified on the Enrollment Form must be prepared to show photo ID upon pick-up or the child will not be released to their care. If a family member or emergency contact cannot be located the police and Children's Aid Society will be notified.

From time to time a family may wish to add or remove, from the list, someone who is permitted to pick-up their child. You will need to contact the program staff or supervisor and make the changes **in writing**.

Please note, if a child is going to be absent on an enrolled day, please call or text the child care program in the morning to report the absence. Program staff will reach out to a family where a child does not arrive as expected and no prior notification is given. If a family cannot be reached, the police will be notified.

Please refer to the attached Appendices "Directly Operated Child Care Programs – Safe Arrival and Dismissal Policy"

Health & Well-Being of Children

Sanitary Practices & Infectious Disease Control

Our child care program works closely with and is periodically inspected by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit to ensure all health and safety regulations are adhered to. The child care program has developed rigorous cleaning protocols to assist with the control of infectious diseases within the child care environment.

If a child care program is declared on "Outbreak" from a respiratory or enteric illness, each family will be notified in advance of care. The child care program will remain open unless otherwise instructed by the

NBPSDHU and will follow an enhanced cleaning protocol. As well, staff may be required to wear face masks and eye protection during program hours.

Families will notify the child care program when their child is diagnosed with a communicable disease. The child care program must post a Communicable Disease Notice and notify families to watch for any symptoms. All communicable diseases must be reported to the NBPSDHU by the child care program.

Ill Children

It is important to us that every precaution is taken to reduce the spread of diseases and infections.

Families need to keep their child home and notify the program if any of the following symptoms are present:

- a) a fever,
- b) vomiting within the last 24-hour period,
- c) diarrhea within the last 24-hours,
- d) any discharge from the eyes and/or ears,
- e) a severe cough, runny nose and/or congestion,
- f) any undiagnosed skin rashes or infections; and/or,
- g) gastrointestinal infection.

If a child arrives to care with any of the above symptoms, families will be asked to return home and if the child develops symptoms while in care, families will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. Likewise, if you have administered any medication to your child for fevers or colds, please let the staff know upon arrival to the program. *Children are expected to be able to fully participate in all indoor and outdoor activities throughout the day.*

Drug and Medication Administration

1. Should your child require prescription medication to be administered during the time they are in care, speak to a staff member. The parent/guardian must complete and sign a Drug or Medication Administration Form before any medication will be given. All medication must be in the original pharmaceutical container with the prescription label identifying:

- ✓ The child's full name,
- ✓ The name of the drug or medication,
- ✓ Prescription number,
- ✓ The dosage of the drug or medication,
- ✓ Instructions for storage,
- ✓ Instructions for administration,
- ✓ The date of purchase or the medication; and
- ✓ The expiry date of the medication, if applicable.

2. In the case of non-prescription skin care products, such as insect repellent, sunscreen, lip balm, etc., written authorization from the parent or guardian is required and the product must be in the original container.

3. Where a drug or medication is to be administered to a child on an "as needed" basis (e.g. there is no specific schedule or time of day for administration), the drug or medication must be accompanied with a

doctor's note or prescription label outlining the signs and symptoms for administering the drug or medication and the appropriate dosage. In addition, the Authorization for Drug/Medication Administration form must clearly indicate the situations under which the medication is to be given as outlined in the doctor's note/prescription label, including observable symptoms.

Allergies and Medical Needs

Please identify to the program supervisor any life-threatening allergies or other medical needs your child may have so we can better support your family. The program supervisor will set up a meeting with you to discuss all the necessary precautions and procedures in case of an emergency. Every child with a life-threatening allergy or medical need will be issued a detailed emergency plan that will be posted in several locations within the child care program, as well, any required training around first aid and specific emergency procedures will be completed prior to the child's first day of care. We strive to be peanut, tree nut, and latex free environments and ask families to not bring any outside food in to the program unless it is necessary for dietary and/or medical reasons and all bagged lunches will be monitored by the staff to ensure that any potential allergens are contained.

The following strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents will be followed at all times by staff, placement students and volunteers:

- a) Child care programs will prohibit outside food from entering the program areas with the exception of bagged lunches, and staff, placement students, and volunteers will wash their hands after consuming outside food and before entering program rooms.
- b) Child care programs that offer School Age Programming with bag lunches will create specific procedures to reduce exposure to anaphylactic causative agents and follow Directly Operated Child Care Programs Policy 3.12 Nutrition and Menu Planning (Bag Lunches) including but not limited to:
 - i. providing families with a list of prohibited food items including nuts, tree nuts, seeds, and peanut butter, based on the needs of the children in the group;
 - ii. program staff monitoring the contents of the bagged lunches, removing any prohibited items to be returned to the family and discussing any concerns with parents and/or guardians;
 - iii. program staff supplementing bagged lunches with nutritionally appropriate choices if the contents are inadequate;
 - iv. families labelling all food and drink containers with the child's name and date of arrival at the program;
 - v. program staff carefully monitoring meal and snack times to ensure that sharing of food items is discouraged, and;
 - vi. program staff are following Directly Operated Child Care Programs Policy 3.12 Nutrition and Menu Planning (Bag Lunches).
- c) No food items where the ingredients are not known will be served.
- d) No items with 'may contain' warnings on the label will be served in a room where there is a child who has an Individualized Plan and Emergency Procedures specifying those allergens.
- e) School Age Program staff will review all ingredients before food is served to children to verify that causative agents are not served to children with anaphylactic allergies.
- f) In cases where a child has food allergies and the meals and snacks provided by the child care program cannot meet the child's needs, parents/guardians will be asked to supply meals/snacks

for their child. All written instructions for diet provided by a parent/guardian will be implemented.

- g) When parents/guardians are asked to provide food and drink for their child ensure that parents label all food and drinks brought into the child care program with the child's full name and the date the food/drink arrived at the program.
- h) Where food is provided from home for children, ensure that appropriate supervision of children is maintained so that food is not shared or exchanged.
- i) Encourage parents who serve foods containing allergens at home to ensure their child has been rid of the allergens prior to attending the child care program (e.g., thoroughly washing hands, brushing teeth, etc.).
- j) Labels on craft and sensory materials, and toys will be checked for possible allergens and not be used in the program.
- k) Refer to the allergy list and ensure it is up to date, displayed in a prominent location in the children's activity area and food preparation areas and that it is implemented.
- l) All Individualized Plan and Emergency Procedures are kept-up-to-date and all staff, placement students and volunteers will be alerted to any changes and trained on the plans reviewing the allergies, signs and symptoms, and treatment.
- m) Program supervisors or designates will share information about anaphylaxis, strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to known allergens, and treatment with all families enrolled in the child care program.
- n) Families will be updated, in writing, by the program staff when changes to allergies occur while maintaining the confidentiality of the child(ren).
- o) No products containing latex will be permitted in the child care programs (e.g. gloves, balloons, etc.).

Emergency Management

Each child care program is required to have a written Emergency Management Plan that covers extraordinary situations such as environmental hazards, serious weather conditions, or emergencies identified by local first responders. Every child care program has identified an evacuation site within walking distance of the program. Should an emergency be declared, families will be notified as soon as possible through the Lillio App and/or by telephone, and we ask that you respect and follow the instructions given to ensure everyone's safety. Please speak to the program supervisor if you have any questions about the Emergency Management Plan.

Each child care program practices monthly fire drills as well as twice a year Hold and Secure, and Shelter in Place drills with the children to help them become more familiar with the practices.

Off-Premises Activities

Periodically your School Age Program may wish to take the children to visit a local place of interest (e.g., grocery store, post office, police station, library, school, or park) as part of the learning the children has shown interest in. Families will be notified ahead of the excursion and asked to sign a permission form allowing their child to participate. When going on an excursion, we try to enhance the adult-child ratio by adding placement students and volunteers to the group. Staff will carry children's medications, emergency contacts, first aid kit and any other items to support the children having a safe experience.

Supervision of Children

Children will be closely supervised by the child care staff at all times. Licensed child care programs must maintain a Ministry of Education regulated adult to child ratio based on the age grouping for the children in attendance and all adults participating in the child care program must have a clear Vulnerable Sector Check on file at each program. No child will have access to any standing body of water including wading pools, streams, ponds, or pools while in care and when a program introduces water play, it will be done using buckets, sprinklers and/or water tables. All water play, in or out of doors, will be supervised by an adult.

Prohibited Practices

Young children benefit from an affirming approach that encourages positive interactions with other children and with adults, rather than from a negative or punitive approach to managing unwanted behaviour. The following are prohibited practices with respect to a child receiving child care at a child care program operated by the PSDSSAB.

1. corporal punishment of the child,
2. physical restraint of the child, such as confining the child to a highchair, car seat, stroller, chair, 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,
3. locking the exits of the 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,
4. use of harsh or degrading measures, 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,
5. depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing, or bedding; or
6. inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will.

Every staff member, placement student and volunteer have a ***Duty to Report*** any suspicions of child abuse to the local Children's Aid Society (CAS). All Registered Early Childhood Educators are bound to comply with the College of ECE's Code of Ethics and Professional Standards. This document may be found at <https://www.college-ece.ca/en/Public/professionalstandards>.

Inclusion of Children with Differing Abilities

All child care programs operated by the PSDSSAB are fully inclusive of all families and children. We work as a team with the families and community partners to provide Individualized Support Programs that support each child using a family focused approach to goal setting based on the child's individual strengths. The staff and program supervisors communicate regularly with school board staff to ensure consistency and seamless transitions for all children attending a School Age Program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's development, please speak with a program staff member.

Nutrition and Menu Planning

All School Age Programs will supply a nutritious snack based on the Eating Well with Canada Food Guide and the Healthy Eating Environment Toolkit. Mealtimes are provided in a relaxed family setting where

children are seated at a table with an adult and encouraged to serve themselves, practice table manners, enjoy conversation and interact with one another. Menus are posted for families as well as uploaded to the Lillio app. Staff document how each child ate over the day and communicate the information to families.

Children attending the Summer School Age Program will bring a brown bag lunch each day. We ask parents and guardians to please consider the children are very active during the day and require adequate and nutritious mid-day meals. Staff will always supply water and have two prepared snacks for the children to enjoy. If you have any questions about food allergies or contents of a brown bag lunch, the program staff will be happy to assist you. Should a child forget their lunch, parents and guardians will be called to arrange for a lunch drop-off. Staff will have a supply of crackers, vegetables, and fruit should a child require supplemental food.

Please discuss any special dietary restrictions your child may have with the program supervisor so arrangements can be made to ensure your child's needs are met. You may be asked to provide any food not regularly served at the child care program and please make sure that the child's name and date of delivery to the program are labelled on all food containers.

Alert the program supervisor of any food allergies or sensitivities your child may experience.

Requests for Information

Any requests for written confirmation regarding a child's attendance and/or participation in a child care program must be emailed to privacy@psdssab.org. Program supervisors are not able to provide letters of reference or details concerning a child's attendance.

Appendices

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| Safe Arrival and Dismissal | <u>DIRECTLY OPERATED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS</u> Policy No. 2.11 | Page: 1 of 4 Effective: January 2024_ |
|----------------------------|--|--|

INTENT:

1. To comply with the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 Ontario Regulation 137/15*.
2. To help support the safe arrival and dismissal of children receiving care.
3. To provide staff, students, and volunteers with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities for ensuring the safe arrival and dismissal of children, including what steps are to be taken if a child fails to attend as expected.
4. To provide staff, students, and volunteers with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities should a parent/guardian arrive to the child care program and appears to be incapable of caring for the child once dismissed from care.

POLICY:

1. Where a child does not arrive to care as expected or is not picked up from care as expected, staff must follow the safe arrival and dismissal procedures set out below.
2. Children will only be released to those individuals specified on the Enrollment Form, Release of a Child Form (Appendix K1), or other written authorization from the custodial parent/guardian and must provide photo identification prior to the child being dismissed.

3. Where there is reasonable suspicion as to the ability of the individual to care for the child being dismissed, staff will follow the procedures set out below.
4. Staff will only release children from care to the parent/guardian or other authorized adult. Under no circumstances will children be released from care to walk home alone.
5. Where school age children are being released to board a school bus, parents/guardians must provide written authorization and instructions and staff will only release the child at the time set out in the instructions. Staff will document the time of departure from care in the Lillio app.
6. The program director and program supervisors will follow Directly Operated Child Care Programs Policy 2.09, Monitoring Compliance and Contraventions of Policies, Procedures and Individualized Plans and any subsequent policy to ensure compliance.
7. The program director will update or revise this policy as legislation and regulations change.

PROCEDURES:

Accepting a child into care

1. When accepting a child into care at the time of drop-off, program staff must:
 - a. Greet the parent/guardian and the child.
 - b. Ask the parent/guardian if there are any changes to the child's pick-up procedure (i.e., someone other than the parent/guardian picking up).
 - c. Where the parent/guardian indicates that someone other than the child's parent/guardian will be picking up, the staff must confirm that the person is on the authorization list, or where the individual is not listed, ask the parent/guardian to complete the Release of a Child Form (Appendix K1).
 - d. Document the change in pick-up procedure in the Daily Written Record.
 - e. Sign the child in on the Lillio app.
2. If a parent/guardian notifies a child care program later in the day, after the child has been accepted into care, that there is a change in the expected pick-up arrangements, this change must be recorded in the Daily Written Record by the staff receiving the information and the staff will initial the change.

Where a child has not arrived in care as expected

1. Where a child does not arrive at the child care program and the parent/guardian has not communicated a change in schedule (i.e., called and left a message or messaged through the Lillio app, note in the Daily Written Record), within 30 minutes of the expected arrival time the staff must:
 - a. Inform the program supervisor or designate stating that no notice of absence has been received and the parent/guardian has failed to arrive.
 - b. Staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian by calling the number on the child's record, texting the number provided by the parent/guardian, and/or sending a message through the Lillio app.
 - c. If contact cannot be made using one of the above methods, the staff will contact the Emergency contact listed in the child's record.
 - d. Staff must not stop attempting to make contact until an adult has been reached and they are made aware of the situation.
 - e. If a responsible adult cannot be contacted, staff are to alert the program supervisor or designate and they will contact the police.
2. Once a child's absence has been confirmed, staff will document the child's attendance in the Daily Written Record and add any additional information.

Releasing a child from care

1. The staff who is supervising the child at the time of pick-up shall only release the child to the child's parent/guardian or authorized individual. Where the staff does not know the individual picking up the child:
 - a. Staff will confirm the identification with another staff member, or
 - b. Where the above is not possible, ask the individual for photo identification and confirm the individual's information against the authorization on file.

Where a child has not been picked up as expected (before the program closes)

1. Where a parent/guardian has previously communicated with the staff a specific time or timeframe that their child is to be picked up from care and the child has not been picked up within 30 minutes of the expected time, the staff will:
 - a. Notify the program supervisor or designate.
 - b. Proceed with contacting the individual to confirm pick-up as per the parent/guardian instructions.
 - c. If there is no confirmation of pick-up, staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian by calling the number on the child's record, texting the number provided by the parent/guardian, and/or sending a message through the Lillio app.
 - d. If contact cannot be made using one of the above methods, the staff will contact the Emergency contact listed in the child's record.
 - e. Staff must not stop attempting to make contact until an adult has been reached and they are made aware of the situation.
2. Where the staff has not heard back from the parent/guardian or authorized individual who was to pick up the child and the program is closing, staff will refer to procedures under "where a child has not been picked up and program is closed".

Where a child has not been picked up and the program is closed

1. Where a parent/guardian or authorized individual who was supposed to pick up a child and has not arrived by program closure, staff shall remain with the child and ensure that the child is given a snack and activity while they await their pick-up.
2. One staff will remain with the child and engage them in an activity while the second staff:
 - a. Notifies the program supervisor or designate.
 - b. Attempts to contact the individual to confirm pick-up as per the parent/guardian instructions.
 - c. If there is no confirmation of pick-up, staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian by calling the number on the child's record, texting the number provided by the parent/guardian, and/or sending a message through the Lillio app.
 - d. If contact cannot be made using one of the above methods, the staff will contact the Emergency contact listed in the child's record.
3. If staff are unable to reach the parent/guardian or any other authorized individual listed on the child's record within 30 minutes of program closure, the staff will proceed with calling the program supervisor or designate.
4. The program supervisor or designate will contact the Children's Aid Society (CAS) and will follow their direction with respect to the next steps. The supervisor or designate will relay any information from the CAS to the staff supervising the child.

Where there is reasonable suspicion as to the ability of the individual to care for a child being dismissed

1. Staff will alert a second staff requesting the assistance of the program supervisor, designate, or another staff member that there are concerns.

2. Staff will attempt to engage the individual in conversation and assess the situation to the best of their ability while remaining professional and calm.
3. If staff are able without placing themselves in harm or escalating the situation, try to steer the individual to a quiet space in the program such as the supervisor office or unused playroom. Politely express concern for the individual and child and ask the individual if there is someone off the authorized pick-up list that could be contacted on their behalf to ensure that everyone gets home safely.
4. If the individual insists on picking up the child and leaving the program:
 - a. have a second staff call the parent/guardian or emergency contact and provide the details of the situation as well, have the second staff take note of the vehicle make/model/colour/license plate
 - b. assist in getting the child ready to be released (slowly if the alternate individual is on route to the program)
 - c. once the individual has left the premises with the child, staff are to call 911 and report the incident providing the vehicle identification, individual's name, intended destination, and address of the child's residence.
5. Once the situation is resolved, staff will confidentially document the situation and follow the Human Resources Duty to Report policy, if applicable.

Parental Orders

1. The program supervisor or designate will inform the parent or guardian that a legal parental order is required to confirm the non-custodial parent rights to access to the child(ren).
2. The program supervisor or designate will inform the staff of the parental order and place documentation in the child's file located in the program supervisor's office.
3. If the non-custodial parent or guardian arrives at the child care program unannounced and without written confirmation of access from the custodial parent/guardian, the staff will contact the custodial parent to receive confirmation either verbally or written.
4. The program supervisor or designate will ensure the custodial parent or guardian are aware that it is the responsibility of the custodial parent or guardian to notify the child care supervisor or designate of any modifications to the parental order.

Resources

Parry Sound District Social Services Administration Board

www.psdssab.org

Ont. Ministry of Ed/Child Care Division http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/licensing_resources.html

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

www.myhealthunit.ca

Look/See Checklist (formerly Nipissing Developmental Screen)

<https://lookseechecklist.com/en/>

PSDSSAB Directly Operated Child Care Programs

Fairview ELCCC

152 Fairview Lane,
Powassan, ON P0H 1Z0
705-724-5462

Email: fairview@psdssab.org

First Steps ELCCC

16 Toronto Ave.,
South River, ON P0A 1X0
705-386-0553

Email: firststeps@psdssab.org

Highlands ELCCC

2500 Hwy. 592 North,
Emsdale, ON P0A 1J0
705-636-0202

Email: highlands@psdssab.org

Waubee ELCCC

66A Waubee St.,
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1C6
705-746-8332

Email: waubee@psdssab.org

Home Child Care Program

86 Gibson St.,
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1X5
705-746-9522 ext. 4362

Email: homechildcare@psdssab.org

16 Toronto Ave.,
South River, ON P0A 1X0
705-386-2967 ext. 5431

School Age Programs

Mapleridge Public School 705-724-5462
Sundridge Centennial School 705-386-0553

Email: sap@psdssab.org

Inclusion Support Services

86 Gibson St.,
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1X5
705-746-9522 ext. 4361

Email: inclusionsupportservices@psdssab.org

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

Sound Community Hub
86 Gibson St.,
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1X5
705-746-9522 ext. 4351

South River Hub
16 Toronto Ave.,
South River, ON P0A 1X0
705-386-2358 ext. 5453

Land of Lakes Hub
92 Ontario St.,
Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0
705-472-7015 ext. 6318

*Please see the website below for other community satellite locations and program information

Email: earlyyears@psdssab.org

Website: www.foreverychild.ca