

## **Program Statement**

*Revised: September 20, 2018*

Our organization views children as being competent, capable, curious and rich in potential.

The goals of our organization, and the achievement of the stated goals, as they apply to the operation of Miss Helen's Place Child Care centre are as follows:

### **1. Promote the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of the children;**

- ✿ Providing healthy and nutritional foods.
- ✿ Holding monthly fire drills.
- ✿ Making daily playground checks.
- ✿ Employing good sanitary practices (ie. frequent hand washing and disinfecting of toys and play areas).
- ✿ Engaging children in the preparation of their snacks and meals whenever possible.

### **2. Support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents, child care providers and staff;**

#### **Staff will:**

- ✿ Assume a physical position which encourages trust (eg. sitting on the floor or low chair).
- ✿ Create an atmosphere of co-learning between staff and children.
- ✿ Foster "child-led" discussions on activities and points of interests of the children.
- ✿ Provide positive feedback to each child's idea and suggestion.
- ✿ Follow through with child initiated activities and discuss outcome (eg. changes, improvements, etc.).
- ✿ Verbal dialogue at drop off and pick up times.
- ✿ A monthly newsletter
- ✿ Documentation via a portfolio, for each child, of events; sayings; photographs; artwork, etc. as a running record of every child's development and experiences at Miss Helen's Place.
- ✿ Annual Parent Survey
- ✿ Parent Handbook, available in digital or hard copy.
- ✿ Development and implementation of an informative website.

### **3. Encourage the children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate;**

- ✿ Providing opportunities for children to communicate through songs; plays; puppet theatre and a variety of Education Through Music (ETM) interactive activities.
- ✿ Encourage children involved in a dispute to state their feelings and discuss ways of resolving or avoiding the conflict.
- ✿ Listen to each child's point of view without bias.

- 4. Foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry;**
  - ✿ Engaging with the group of children to discover their individual interests, encouraging their suggestions re: further exploration.
  - ✿ Provide a wide variety of creative materials to use in child initiated projects.
  - ✿ Trips to places of interest in the community to seek answers to posed questions (ie. library; waterfront; children's museums).
  - ✿ Nature walks to observe and gather materials for classroom projects
  
- 5. Provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences;**
  - ✿ Daily brainstorming sessions, between children and adults, to discover topics for exploration.
  - ✿ Provision, by adults, of materials and/or resources suggested by children for their initiated activities.
  
- 6. Plan for and create positive learning environments and experiences in which each child's learning and development will be supported;**
  - ✿ Maintain a stock of materials to be used by the children in their own initiated, cooperative activities.
  - ✿ Take weekly trips to the library where each child may select a book of their own choice to bring back to the centre.
  - ✿ Each child will have an opportunity to select and direct an activity for the whole group on a weekly basis.
  - ✿ Frequent change of material and activity opportunities both indoors and outdoors, in the play area and surrounding community.
  
- 7. 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 child care;**
  - ✿ Schedule daily outdoor play gaining input from the children re: games; activities etc. in which to engage while outdoors.
  - ✿ Provide a choice of indoor activities to be selected by each child, to include active and quiet play.
  - ✿ Permit a child who does not sleep during rest time to select a quiet activity while the other children are sleeping.
  
- 8. Foster the engagement of ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children;**
  - ✿ Provide a verbal report to parent at the end of each day.
  - ✿ A monthly newsletter.
  - ✿ Documentation via a portfolio, for each child, as a running record of every child's development and experiences at Miss Helen's Place.
  - ✿ Invite discussion concerning all aspects of a child's development, health and well being, and provide support and/or referrals as required.

**9. Involve local community partners and allow those partners to support the children, their families and staff;**

- ❖ Assist and support families with referrals to Pathways Health Centre for Children whenever required.
- ❖ Post information from Lambton Health Services re: hearing clinics; immunization etc. on Information Board.
- ❖ Active involvement in OneList to assist families seeking childcare spaces.

**10. Support staff, home child care providers or others who interact with the children at a child care centre or home child care premises in relation to continuous professional learning;**

- ❖ Monthly staff meetings focused on How Does Learning Happen
- ❖ Facilitating attendance at local presentations which provide reflection and discussion with others in the ECE field.

**11. Document and review the impact of the strategies set out in clauses on the children and their families;**

- ❖ The staff/director will review the daily comments of the “Four Foundations of How Does Learning Happen” report, in each room, on a weekly basis to study the impact of the strategies set out in the program statement and make appropriate changes to the program going forward.
- ❖ Compile the data collected from the Annual Parent Survey to improve our program services to the children in our care and their families.

The following strategies will be employed to assist the staff member in the understanding of the HDLH practices:

- \* One on one discussion with the Supervisor of the Centre
- \* Partnering with a mentor
- \* Setting goals to improve personal performance
- \* Establish a deadline for these goals to be met
- \* Review the HDLH practices of the staff member