

Purely Play Recreation

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OVERVIEW

Purely Play Recreation (PPR) is a nature & land based early learning and child care provider. Care based learning experiences are offered in both indoor and outdoor settings. Enjoying, exploring, and engaging with the land and all it offers can be such a wonderful experience and the indoor care space prioritizes natural materials with a calming, playful ambience. This program acknowledges community engagement through visiting many beautiful areas (indoor/outdoor) in Saskatoon/surrounding areas and that part of *belonging to the community* includes experiencing it through these various explorations. The daily program is arranged in order to support child participation and embraces the cultural contributions of registered families as well as myself.

PHILOSOPHY

Here at PPR, we consider the whole child - with social, emotional, physical, cognitive, communicative and adaptive qualities. We also know that we are part of nature and always making connections between ourselves and the natural/humanmade environments around us. We embrace rhythms, routines, cycles and evolving needs whether we are a human, a tree or a beetle.

Finding a balance between free play, skill development and attending to our own needs through group, one on one and solitary play each day is important. Relaxation and contemplation are valued so comfortable areas and hammocks (outdoors) are accessible.

Respect and reciprocity are our building blocks with communication and expression holding equal value. This supports us in becoming a growing/living community together. I warmly invite families to drop by and engage with your children. Family participation is also encouraged during our planned family events which may occasionally be offered on an

evening/weekend. I also encourage families to share their traditions, beliefs, culture, and skills with the other children and families at these events. You may do this through activities, food, crafts, singing and storytelling. *Please let me know in advance so we can plan and collaborate effectively.* Our community welcomes each of our family members as well as other beneficial volunteers who attend once in a while to share their joy and talents. Perhaps an artist, storyteller, musician or an extra helping hand. The care program maintains an open door policy and you are always welcome to join us.

'The wider range of possibilities we offer children, the more intense will be their motivations and the richer their experiences. We must widen the range of topics and goals, the types of situations that we offer and their degree of structure, the kinds and combinations of resources and materials and the possible interactions with things, peers and adults.' ([Loris Malaguzzi](#))

'Natural landscapes in the outdoors typically provide rich, diverse, multi-sensory experiences; opportunities for noisy, boisterous, vigorous, physically active play; opportunities for physical challenge and risk taking that are inherent in the value of play; rough, uneven surfaces, with opportunities for the development of physical strength, balance, and coordination; and natural elements and loose parts that children can combine, manipulate, and adapt for their own purposes.'
(www.child-encyclopedia.com)

PROGRAM OPERATION & DETAILS

AGE

All children attending these programs must be a minimum of 18 months and a maximum of 12 years of age.

Each program type has its own hours of operation.*

Getting signed up with a Family Meeting

Family meetings are the beginning of the enrollment process. The location for a meeting may be the in-home classroom, your home or the outdoors. These initial meetings are important to begin the bonding process between the care provider and

child. It allows parents to observe interactions, ask questions that arise and to share about their family traditions/lifestyles/parenting styles.. These meetings are informative to all three participants - child, parent, educator.

All new families will be required to commit to a *warm-up day or a series of hours/day* based on their child's needs. A parent/guardian must be present. This period will allow for your child(ren) to grow accustomed to the Educator, daily care routine (day preparedness), various indoor/outdoor play spaces and to develop resilience to the weather.

This is an important transition into the environment(s) outside of your own home/familiar care arrangement.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS*

Outdoor Preschool 930am-1230pm

Toddler Tuesday 930am-1100am (winter) 930am to 1200pm (summer)

Adventure Thursday 1000am-300pm

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Pop-Up Daycamps variable times

After-Care Monday/Wednesday 1230pm-400pm

YEARLY CALENDAR

The care program runs year round with annually planned special closures. In order for your family to be prepared to take holidays or make other care arrangements for these closures, the calendar is communicated 2 weeks in advance.

We will be closed on all statutory holidays.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, SUPERVISION, GUIDANCE

Every day is an adventure! PPR programs are bringing children into the outdoors as much as weather permits. Day preparedness, outdoor play space choices and curiosity based exploration are big topics for us here at PPR. Playing outside supports physical development through various types of terrain, offers extended learning on all areas of nature, and promotes relationship building/enjoyment.

The indoor space is part of each care day and is utilized more often during inclement weather . The classroom provides developmentally appropriate materials and responds to the interests of all enrolled children. Other engaging indoor spaces are considered when planned excursions take us out of the area of the classroom.

Children will be guided and reminded to adhere to agreements, BOTH INDOOR/OUTDOOR, in order to maintain safety and cooperation. Educators and volunteers will kindly but firmly outline the agreement as well as demonstrate to/support the child in succeeding in cooperating. A child will always be offered an opportunity to explain themselves as well as to care for the other person(s) involved to establish a practice of empathy and compassion.

Ratios are important and essential for adequate indoor/outdoor supervision. Children are asked to adhere to safety agreements made together that are relevant to each location. *Volunteers are wonderful supporters for special excursion bookings. Let us know if you/others would like to help out.*

Ratios:

Outdoor Preschool - 1 Educator : 6 children ages 3 to 6 yrs

Adventure Thursday - 1 Educator : 8 children ages 5 to 12 yrs

Pop-Up Daycamps - 1 Educator : 8 children ages 5 to 12 yrs

Toddler Tuesday - 1 Educator : 8 Parented children ages 18 to 36 mos

FEES, TERMINATION, CHANGES

Fees: Per Child

- Fees are based on holding your child's spot
- Fees are nonrefundable.
- All fees must be paid by 1st of the month
- Please communicate with me if you need a payment plan.

All fees can be paid via e-transfer (diannebeckett8@gmail.com) between the 25th and 1st of the month prior to your booking. If fees are still outstanding by the 5th, program services will be refused.

Newsletter:

A program newsletter for the month ahead is prepared by the 15th of the previous month. This is emailed to you for your planning needs.

- Parents are required to submit a monthly schedule by the 1st of each month.
- Schedule changes can be made with a 48 hour notice if ratios allow.
- Children are to be dropped off/picked up at scheduled times to ensure ratios are maintained. Please communicate lateness via text message.

Refusal/absences:

Fees are set monthly regardless of days when your child may be ill etc. It is important to know that there are only a certain number of care spaces per programming day. Your fees hold your space for your child(ren). For part-time registrants, your schedule must be agreed upon and set as such. This allows for other families to access services on other days. I, Dianne Beckett, reserve the right to cancel services without notice in cases of unmanageable behaviors, unpaid fees and disrespectful treatment from adults.

Special Notes:

I do not supply an alternate (substitute) for my sick days.

All other closures are preplanned and indicated in the annual calendar.

MEALS/SNACKS

Please provide your child's meals/snacks in a *bento-box style insulated container* for easy storage in the child's backpack. Fabric zipper snack bags are ideal also. Include a bottle of water (no juices/milk). This maximizes adequate energy for the day. Please note that fresh fruit/vegetables may *freeze in the winter season* so please choose other options such as dried fruit/fruit-veggie bars etc when necessary.

Please keep in mind that things can get 'heavy' in a back-pack when out on the land! Try to stay away from wet foods like yogurt for example.

We pack it in and we pack it out.

Insulated water bottles are required when weather is below 0 celsius.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

There are items that your child will need each day for outdoor play. Choosing outer wear/gear can be tricky and often needs trial and error testing to ensure a good fit and adequate warmth/water repellency. Please engage in conversation with me to assist with choices.

WINTER	Snowsuit, hat, neck warmer, 2 pair of mittens, 1 extra pair of socks	Winter boots
SUMMER	Hat, cotton long sleeve for bug protection, UV shirt, swimsuit	Sport sandals, Crocs, runners
SPRING/ FALL	Rain/windbreaker coat and pants, fleece zip up sweater. *Tuffo brand recommended, 2 mitts, 1 extra pair of socks	Good fitting rubber boots or runners/hikers

Required Supplies: If you do not have access to these materials, please speak to me for options.

* one backpack that is size/age appropriate. A chest clip is very helpful as are outer pockets and loops for clipping things on *

** a ziplock bag with a full change of clothes is required in the bottom of your child's backpack (seasonally appropriate)**

HEALTH POLICIES

Our whole health is important. In our opinion, this pertains to our physical, emotional, and mental experiences. The things that happen in our lives can affect our children as much as it does ourselves..please feel free to have a conversation with the Educator regarding details that may help us care better for your child. Perhaps a pet is passing away, or a relative is ill and sometimes an argument between siblings can get us down.. Booking a time for a call or writing an email can be a great way to start.

Your confidentiality is important and is always respected.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Each child must have an emergency card and waiver on file form to ensure that the care provider can get your child help in the case of an emergency.

Family members will be informed immediately of the occurrence of an accident.

All bumps and bruises will be communicated to parent (s) on the day that they happen.

ILLNESS POLICY

Illness happens! If your child has had a fever, cold/infection, rash, diarrhea or vomiting they must remain home a full 24 hrs after the illness has ended. This ensures a full recovery as well as reduces the spread of infection. It is essential that all *communicable diseases* are communicated to the Educator so that she may communicate essential care details with all other families in the program as per provincial regulations. Confidentiality is respected.

Currently, there is a zero-tolerance policy for ill children. It is difficult to regulate body temperature/bathroom breaks when outdoors and away from home. If your child becomes ill in the classroom or in the outdoors we will call you (emergency contact) for pick-up to happen as soon as possible.

Please let us know if your child becomes ill at home and will be away that day. We want everyone to be healthy and it is valuable to everyone that we are as forthcoming as possible when we aren't feeling well.

Please note:

Child Management Policy: The following practices are not permitted forms of child management: corporal punishment, physical, emotional, or verbal abuse, denial of necessities, isolation, inappropriate physical or mechanical restraint.

Minor Behaviours: This type of behaviour may include: non-compliance, listening difficulties, inappropriate language, sharing issues, or other minor incidents. In such cases, I will speak with the child about their behaviour. To support children in developing positive self-regulation and appropriate behaviour, I will help them build self-control by modelling appropriate behaviours, using both verbal and non-verbal cues, engaging in one-on-one interactions, demonstrating coaching techniques, and facilitating problem-solving.

Major Behaviours Infractions: This type of behaviour may include: harming other children or themselves, destroying physical objects, bullying, and persistent minor behaviours that do not improve with behavioural support. *Major behaviours* will be brought to the attention of the parents. Together, we will work as a team to find the best solution to support your child. If the behaviour does not change after implementing new strategies, childcare may be terminated.

Child Abuse & Duty to Report: As an Early Childhood Educator, it is my *duty to report immediately* to the local Ministry of Social Services Child Protection Office if I have any reason to believe that a child is a *victim of abuse*. My duty to report takes precedence over our confidentiality policy, as the health and well-being of the children is my top priority. Once the report is filed, authorities will determine the necessary steps to protect the child.

Confidentiality: Your family's privacy is very important to me. Any personal or sensitive information shared about your child or family will be kept strictly confidential and only shared when required by law or necessary for your child's well-being. I do not discuss any child or family information with others without consent. All files will be kept in a locked location.

Smoking:

We maintain a smoke-free environment during the hours of operation.

Thank you for your interest in nature based programming in your area!

Joyfully,

Dianne Beckett