

DUBLIN
HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY CHILD CARE INC.



PARENT HANDBOOK

Revised January 2017

Revised June 2018

Revised June 2019

Revised July 2020

Revised Sept. 2020

Revised Dec. 2020

Table of Contents

About Us (Page 5-14)

- Welcome
- Mission Statement
- Board of Directors
- Staff and teachers
- Programs offered
- Enrolling your child
- Waitlist
- Graduating between rooms
- School drop-off / pick-up
- Operating hours and holidays
- Program statement

Parents and The Centre (Page 15-17)

- Family involvement/volunteering
- Parent separations and custody agreements
- Separation and your child
- Family support

Our Program (Page 18-20)

- Philosophy
- Rest & nap time
- Outdoor activities
- Offsite permission and filed trips
- Special celebrations

Child Guidance (Page 21-23)

- What's expected of the children
- Our approach to conflict and resolution and child guidance
- Biting policy
- Child guidance policy & staff
- Prohibited practices

Health & Safety Policies (Page 24-32)

- Immunization records, medical forms & emergency contact
- Procedures for illness
- Reportable communicable diseases

- Returning to the Centre
- COVID-19 Health Screening
- Medication Administration
- Allergy prevention
- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Infection Control
- Emergency location
- General Safety
- Accidents and incident reports
- Washroom safety
- Toilet learning
- Smoke Free act
- Sun Safety Policy
- Emergency Care procedures
- Fire prevention and drills
- Emergency closure
- Testing of water

General Policies and Procedures (Page 33-41)

- Confidentiality of children's records
- Optional Attendance
- Items requested from home
- What The Centre Supplies
- Meals and snacks
- Pick-up and Drop-off
- Pick up release authorization
- Late pick-up
- Parent issues and concerns
- Severe weather conditions
- Violence and harassment policy
- Vacation / Absence Policy
- Phone Calls
- Photographs and videos
- Volunteering/Student Teachers
- Withdrawal Process
- Parking

Financial Policies (Page 42-44)

- Child care fees
- Enrolment, Holding and Late fees
- Fee payment
- Withdrawal
- NSF
- Financial assistance and non-payment
- Year-end tax receipt

Parent Contract (Page 45)**Appendix-A (Page 46)**

ABOUT US

WELCOME

Welcome to Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc. We hope you and your children find our Child Care a home away from home, where your children will feel safe, secure and respected. Our Board of Directors and staff strive to provide an environment that is responsive to families and the community.

This Parent Handbook will acquaint you with the operation of the Child Care. It will outline the relationship between families and the organization.

Thank you for choosing Dublin Heights Community Child Care, where your children will grow and develop in our diverse and inclusive environment.

MISSION STATEMENT

We will enrich our community by creating a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment in which each child can develop mentally, physically, emotionally and socially. Our directors and staff will work with families and our school partner to recognize each child's needs and capabilities. Our children will build self-esteem and independence, respect for others and a life-long love of learning.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dublin Heights Community Child Care is a not-for-profit organization with a purchase of service agreement with the City of Toronto. Our Centre is licensed by the Ministry of Education and we work in partnership with the Toronto District School Board.

Our Board of Directors is comprised of up to 9 members and is responsible for overseeing the integrity of the Child Care by developing policies and maintaining sound financial practices. Board members are parents with children in the Centre or are members of the community who meet once a month for decision-making purposes.

STAFF AND TEACHERS

Our staff members and teachers reflect the rich cultural diversity of the neighbourhood and are well equipped for their mission through academic training and hands-on experience.

Our Centre's classrooms are supervised by Registered Early Childhood Educators professionals, with help from Assistant Teachers enrolled in an Early Childhood Education program. The staff/ child ratio are as follows: 1:5 Toddler group, 1:8 Preschool group: 1:13 ratio Kindergarten group, 1:15 Jr. School Age group, and 1:20 Sr. School Age group.

Each staff member, including students and volunteers, has undergone rigorous background screening which includes; Criminal Reference Checks/Vulnerable Sector Screening, Immunization and First Aid/CPR training.

The Child Care Centre provides an annual educational/training fund for all teachers and staff members to further participate in additional training and workshops, based on interest and need.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Our programs operate twelve months a year, with the exception of statutory holidays and four designated professional development days. We offer the following programs;

TODDLERS1 ½ to 2 ½ years
PRE-SCHOOL.....2 ½ to 4 years
KINDERGARTEN.....4 to 5 years
SCHOOL AGE6 to12 years

The Toddler and Preschool programs are full-time programs and available year-round. The Kindergarten and School Aged before and after programs are available from September through June. During school holidays the Child Care offers full day programs for Kindergarten and School Aged children.

We strive to offer our children additional programs such as music, dance, yoga, art activities and literacy options. These programs are available each term to various age groups.

ENROLLING YOUR CHILD

If your child is accepted for admission to the Centre, you will be asked to complete and submit a Registration Package, accompanied by a non-refundable registration fee **(\$50.00)**. A start date will be chosen, but before your child's first day at the Centre, you must provide the following:

Medical form, including the child's immunization record;

Medical Emergency Consent Form;

Parent Information Form;

Family History Form;

Authorized Pick-up Form

Photo Consent, Sunscreen application, Community Walk, Hand Sanitizer Forms

Information on Allergy/Anaphylaxis needs

Signed Parent Contract, and

Non-refundable admission deposit of **\$250.00** that will be credited to your first month's fee.

If you are enrolling more than one child, a separate Registration package is required for each child. This binds Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc. to provide program

services to you and your child. It binds you to abide by our policies and cooperate with our procedures. This provides both parties with the certainty we need to give your child the best possible opportunity to thrive. The Parent Contract will remain in effect as long as your child is enrolled at the Centre.

Our Family Record File for any child admitted to the Centre must include the names, addresses, employment location, and 24- hour telephone contact numbers for all of the people authorized to have access to or give instructions about the child. This record **MUST** be kept up to date. Please let us know within 24 hours if your information changes.

We also need full information about custody of your child, especially if it is subject to an Order of the Family Court. A stamped copy of the Order must be included with the child's registration forms. This protects everyone's rights. Although our staff will comply with all legal obligations, they cannot deny access to a non-custodial parent without a Court Order on file. Any information given to the staff will remain in the strictest confidence at all times.

WAITLIST

The Centre has a limited number of spaces available and we strongly advise parents to apply for admission well in advance of need. Your child's name will be placed on a waiting list for the appropriate age group. Priority will be given to:

- Siblings of children enrolled at the Centre
- Children who receive subsidy from Toronto Children Services.
- Children who attend (or are registered to attend) Dublin Heights Elementary and Middle School.
- Families who live or work in the local community.

Available spaces in older age groups will be given first to children moving up. If the number of Kindergarten children moving up to the School age program is greater than the number of available spaces, some older children (11-12 years old) may be asked to withdraw from the Centre. Under normal circumstances, we will let you know in May whether we will have a space for your Sr. School-aged child in September. In any case, families who need to make alternative arrangements for a school-aged child will be given at least one month's notice.

GRADUATING BETWEEN ROOMS

Children move up chronologically when space becomes available in the next room. The need to maintain proper teacher/child ratio means it is not always possible to move children up when the child reaches the age limit. Before your child moves into the next grouping, his/her teacher will meet with you to discuss your child's developmental needs and milestones reached. The teacher will also inform the parent when the gradual admission process into the next group will begin. Annual Parent/Teacher interviews for Toddler and Preschoolers take place every spring. Parents of Kindergarten and School aged

children can request a meeting with their child's teacher in person to set up an agreed upon date and time.

Older Children:

We recognize that children in Grade 6 may have different interests than their peers in a low grade. We try to provide older children enough space to socialize, build meaningful relationships with one another and gain problem solving skills. Older children are encouraged to respect and deal fairly, gently, and compassionately with each other regardless of differences.

Occasionally, older children (especially those in Grade 5 or 6) outgrow their need or desire to be in childcare regardless of how much fun and security they may gain from the experience. This is due to the fact that they are on the threshold of a new developmental stage where independence is paramount and because most of their peers in the neighbourhood do not attend childcare. When this occurs, it is best to have parents meet with the Supervisor and staff to decide what is best for the older child and his or her family.

SCHOOL DROP-OFF/ PICK-UP

Dropping off your child to school is an important part of the day. It gives parents and children an opportunity to spend a few more minutes together, your child will feel secure and reassured that you will return and provides an opportunity to relay messages to the morning staff member on duty.

We request all parents to drop off their children in their respective rooms **NO LATER** than **9:30am**. If your child(ren) will be late, please let your child's room teacher know in advance or call the Centre at 416-638-0612 by 9:00am. If your child(ren) will be absent from the program, please call or email (info@dhccc.ca) the Centre by 9:00am.

Parents of Toddler and Preschoolers will drop and pick up their children in the main childcare in Dublin Heights Elementary and Middle School at door #4. When you arrive at the Centre, allow yourself enough time to:

Bring your child into the building

Remove outdoor clothing if necessary, and place it in the child's cubby; and

Make sure your child is received by a teacher, do not leave your child in the cubby area or in the classroom without acknowledging a teacher or staff member.

Parents of Kindergarten and School-aged children registered in the before school portion of the day must escort their children into the school using door number 1 or 4, then continue to escort their children into their morning childcare classroom. The safe arrival of your child/ren is crucial to our staff. Teachers will take the morning attendance before transitioning to outdoor play. Once the school bell rings, your child's school teacher will bring them indoors.

The following changes have been made to our school drop-off/pick-up policy to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of Sept 15, 2020

All parents will drop and pick up their children in front of the main childcare (door #4) in Dublin Heights Elementary and Middle School. Parents will need to complete the online daily screening form before bringing their children to the Centre. Once at the Centre, the children's temperature will be taken and brought to their designated room by a staff member. Drop off time for before and after school program is between 7:30am-8:30am and for the Toddler and Preschool program is between 7:30am-9:30am. Parents will need to text their name, child's name and program the child is in at 416-707-8419 to management know that they are on premises for pick up.

OPERATING HOURS AND HOLIDAYS

Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc. operates Monday to Friday year-round. The Centre hours are from **7:30am to 6:00pm**. We are closed on the statutory holidays listed below. The Centre may also be closed on other days in order to meet Toronto District School Board requirements or in unforeseen circumstances. In addition, the Child Care will be closed additional (4) days throughout the year to accommodate teacher Professional Development, Parent will be advised in advance of these additional days.

CENTRE CLOSED FOR STATORY HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day

Family Day

Good Friday and Easter Monday

Victoria Day

Civic Holiday

Labour Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas and Boxing Day

MANDATORY PREPARATION DAYS

P.A. Day in January that falls at the end of the winter/holiday break

Last P.A. Day of the school year (i.e.: June)

Last Two (2) working days of the summer program

The Centre may close at 1:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and/or New Year's Eve. Parents will be notified in advance.

Our operations are guided in part by the City of Toronto Children's Services and The Board of Directors.

The following changes have been made to our operation hours to ensure we're able to adhere to Toronto Public Health and Safety guidelines during COVID-19

As of Sept. 15, 2020

Fall 2020 operating hours will be Monday to Friday from **7:30am to 5:30pm** to ensure staff have time to sanitize and prepare the classrooms each day. If there are extraordinary circumstances that prohibit you from following these times, please reach out to management. Late charges will still apply.

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc. strives to provide quality programming that adheres with the Ministry of Education policies and pedagogy. Some of the Ministry documents that our staff reference to include the following:

- How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years.
- Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research About Young Children
- Ontario Early Years Framework
- Ontario Early Learning Framework
- Early Learning for Every Child Today

At DHCCC, we believe each child is unique, capable of complex thinking with his/her own interest, abilities and dispositions, and deserves to feel accepted, supported and respected within our programs.

Children are competent, capable, curious and rich in potential.

DHCCC recognizes each child has potential to bring out his/her own abilities to the program. They are encouraged to explore and discover new things as well as develop and enhance their own unique creativity.

We provide an environment that enables the children to be curious in a safe and caring environment, which allows the children to grow and develop to maximize their potential.

Our centre fosters independence and self-reliance by providing free choice of play materials. The set-up of our environment meets the needs of the individual child to become independent and self-reliance.

The children are encouraged to be independent through routines such as washing hands, dressing, toileting, eating, and tidying up their play materials. At mealtimes, children are given the opportunity to serve themselves. During this time, children are encouraged to have conversations between peers and adults which foster self-reliance.

For each individual child, their developmental stage is individualized and complex interplay between developmental factors such as their life experiences, community, and unique

family dynamics. We aim to integrate all areas of development into our program.

Our goals for children, consistent with the Ministry of education pedagogy, include the following:

- Every child has a sense of **belonging** when he or she is connected to others and contributes to their world.
- Every child is developing a sense of self, health, and **well-being**.
- Every child is an active and **engaged** learner who explores the world with body, mind, and senses.
- Every child is a capable communicator who **expresses** himself or herself in many ways.

Children's interests are valuable to their learning and offer a rich variety of experiences. The type of activities we offer daily include:

- Construction and design
- Physical literacy
- Drama, music, dance and visual arts
- Science and nature
- Language and literacy
- Rest time for children who require it, based on their developmental needs
- Daily opportunities for active outdoor play
- Opportunities for school-age children to work on their homework

Our program is designed to:

- Offer opportunities to create authentic lasting relationships with others in the program
- Foster the children's exploration, play and inquiry
- Encourage children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate
- Provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences

Health, Safety, Nutrition and Well-Being of Children

At DHCCC we promote healthy choices to develop the growth of the children we serve. We are committed to all children, families, and educators in our Centre to ensure safety. DHCCC has policies and procedures in place to support well-being and belonging.

Health and safety.

As a licenced childcare, DHCCC meets and exceeds all health and safety requirements with the Ministry of Education. We achieve this by performing daily health and safety check of all the

indoor and outdoor play spaces. Time spent outdoors and a balance between quiet time, active play and rest all support children's learning and enhance their physical, emotional, and social well-being. Staff of DHCCC are required to conduct a sleep check of children every 30 minutes to ensure their well-being. Children that do not nap are allowed to engage in quiet activities. For any pickup of children by others outside of their parent/guardian, we require the parent to send an email or note with the person's full name. Upon pick up, we require the person to provide their most updated photo ID to verify their identity. If an email or note is not received, the child will not be released, and the parent will be contacted.

Nutrition.

Our menus follow Canada's Food Guide and are culturally diverse. We accommodate dietary, allergies and religious food requirements for our Centre. Parents are able to view the menu on the parent board in each classroom.

Relationships Among Children, Families, Staff and Community Partners

We at DHCCC foster collaborative and cooperative relationships with all our partners. DHCCC is committed to promote a sense of belonging for children and their families in our Centre by creating and encouraging positive interactions and collaborations with our families. Every child is given the opportunity to develop social skills, personal responsibility, and how to problem solve in a diverse and inclusive way.

Parent Communication/Engagement

At DHCCC respect, empathy, trust, and honesty are core values in all our interactions with families. DHCCC encourages and practices open communication with the families. Sharing knowledge is integral to the success of your child. In addition to daily interactions with program staff we offer many opportunities for parent feedback and involvement- such as surveys, newsletters, parent interviews, parent communication board, and Centre website.

We believe working in partnership with families encourages the bond between home and school to promote the success of each child's experiences. We use parent input to improve our programs and services. The partnership with the families supports our programs in many ways:

- Building a powerful relationship by understanding family structures, language, values, and their culture.
- Helps meet the child's needs as families know their child best and are the first and most influential on learning and development.

DHCCC strives to collaboratively work with all our community partners in reaching our mutual goal of providing the best childcare service possible to families.

Positive Self-Expression, Communication and Self-Regulation

At DHCCC, we provide an inclusive program to give children a sense of belonging. We encourage children's communication, self-expression, and self-regulation. Positive learning environment and experiences focus on active play-based learning.

We seek to support, foster, encourage and to respond in many ways in which children express themselves. In our program, we try to honor and reflect children's home language and culture in our programs.

We welcome children with all abilities. For optimal development and learning, we respect diversity, equality, and inclusion. Ways in which we create an inclusive environment in our programs is by:

- Incorporating strategies to foster an inclusive learning environment which every child can participate.
- Recognize each child as having equal rights to participate in program activities, trips, and events.
- Recognize and respect the unique qualities of each child and family.

Our programs focus on active play-based learning as a way that children naturally learn best. When children are manipulating objects, acting out roles, or experimenting with different materials, they are engaged in learning through play. Everything is planned to follow the child's lead and interest.

Supporting Staff in Continuous Professional Learning

At DHCCC we hire staff that are professional and have knowledge and experience with children. Our non-discriminatory hiring practices provide individuals of all backgrounds the opportunity for employment. We believe that all staff are entitled to be respected, supported, and treated fairly. At DHCCC our teachers are encouraged to participate in ongoing professional learning. Provision of regular training sessions, workshop opportunities are provided by the Centre. Our staff supports the uniqueness in each child, engages with the children to encourage exploration of their environment, provoke their curiosity, and guide positive interactions. Our staff also engages in a positive approach to support children's emotions. The staff regularly reflects on practices as they engage in new learning experiences, both individually and with colleagues. Staff develop programs that supports early learning that follow the child's lead and curiosity. Our educators participate in regular team/Centre meetings to share ideas, suggestions and learning opportunities.

Documenting and Reviewing the Impact of Our Program Statement

Dublin Heights Community Child Care strongly believes that pedagogical documentation is a way for our program staff to learn about how children learn and think. Our staff records daily observations of children's interests and uses this information for their future planning. Making daily observations helps the staff find meaning in what children do and experience. The purpose of our documentation is also:

- To reflect on experiences and what they have been learning.
- To monitor appropriate development as the children, grow.
- Gives opportunity for program staff to participate in ongoing professional learning.
- To keep ongoing communication with families about children's experiences.
- The enhance and encourage children's curiosity of learning.

Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc.'s Program Statement is reviewed and signed off annually by the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and parents to ensure that it is aligned with the Ministry's policy statement.

PARENTS AND THE CENTRE

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT/VOLUNTEERING

Through daily communication and monthly newsletters, we hope to build a relationship with families that extend beyond 'Hello' and 'Good-bye'. We view parents as partners in the growth, development and success of their child's daily experiences. Other opportunities available to parents are:

Membership on the Board of Directors

Visiting a classroom to share stories, special talents, interests and customs

Field Trips

Helping to organize for a special event such as school barbecue

Be a community/Centre buddy for a new family

Contribute 'beautiful junk' to the classrooms: empty yogurt containers, buttons, paper towel rolls, sponges, old towels, plastic bags for dirty diapers, old greeting cards, empty pop bottles, and such.

Help with gardening/planting or clean up initiatives.

This is your child's environment; if you have some thoughts and ideas to make it a better place, please stop by the childcare office to share.

Parents who wish to volunteer in the classroom, directly with the children, you will need to complete a Vulnerable Sector Screening from Toronto Police, provide an up to date immunization record and review Policies and Procedures of the child care with the Supervisor.

Parents who wish to volunteer outside of the classroom (Trips) are advised that during the outing they are ONLY responsible for their child. To interact with any other children, you must submit a vulnerable sector screening and an up to date immunization.

Non-custodial parents or other family members with Court-ordered visitations rights may only exercise these rights with the written permission from the authorized parent/guardian at the Centre. Neither the Centre nor any other premises used by the Centre is an authorized site for such visits, and Dublin Heights staff and teachers are not authorized to supervise Court-ordered visitation. We take this very seriously. If at any time we have cause to believe that a violation has occurred, we may ask that the family withdraw from the Centre and we may also inform the Family Court of a probable breach of the custody order.

NO VOLUNTEER OR STUDENT TEACHER WILL BE LEFT UNATTENDED WITH A CHILD

The following changes have been made to our parent volunteer policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of July 20, 2020

The Centre will not be able to invite parents to volunteer inside or outside the classroom until further notice.

PARENT SEPARATION & CUSTODY AGREEMENT

Regarding Custody Orders, the parent with custody must present a copy of the Order to the Supervisor. The copy will remain in your child's file and teachers will be advised of the custody agreement. The childcare will adhere to components in the agreement /court order they have received. Please supply an amended agreement if your situation changes. If your court order is breached in any way, that is, if the non-custodial parent tries to remove the child from the Centre, the child will be taken to the Supervisor's office where the police and the custodial parent will be contacted.

In the case where there is no custody agreement or court order denying the 'other' parent access, the teachers and staff cannot be held responsible if the 'other' parents exercises the rights of a parent and removes the child from the Centre.

SEPARATION AND YOUR CHILD

It is quite common for a child to experience some difficulties separating from their parent or caregiver during the transitional period. In order to assist your child with this new experience we advise parents to be available for their child for the first few days of care. Toddlers and Preschoolers typically need more reassurance than a Kindergarten or School aged child. We suggest that parents of a toddler/preschool aged child visit the program with him/her a few days before your start date. These visits will help your child become familiar with the surroundings and the new environment.

On the first day, we may ask you to enter the classroom and stay with your child for up to ½ hour, after that time, you will be asked to let your child know that you will be leaving. Our teachers are well trained and will read your child's cues and engage with them accordingly. You will be asked to leave for a short period and to return to experience one more transition. This is called a gradual admission and can take up to three days. Each day you will spend less and less time with your child, and time away will increase, allowing your child and the teachers to build a trusting relationship.

For a Kindergarten or School aged child, we suggest you increase the time for pick up each day. On the first day, pick up your child about 45 mins after school has finished. Each day adding 15 or 20 minutes more to your pick-up time. This will ease your child's mind and reassure them that you will return before long. Your Kindergarten and School aged child spends up to 75% of their day in school. Although the childcare environment is in the

school building, it may take them a few days to realize the difference in expectation, care, guidance and attention they will receive in the childcare setting.

The following changes have been made to our new child/parent separation guidelines to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of July 20, 2020

Typically, during the first couple of days a new child has joined the Centre, we invite and encourage parents to stay with their child for a short period of time. Due to strict government regulations as a result of COVID-19, we are not able to accommodate this. A suitable alternative, agreed upon by management and parents, will be offered instead.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The Dublin Heights staff is well equipped to deal with the occasional misbehaviour, conflicts and outbursts that are part of normal child development, but we are not psychotherapists, social workers, or family counsellors. We do maintain a directory of specialized support services, including books, videos and other media, community groups, government agencies and a roster of pre-screened professionals. From time to time we may recommend these services to parents. We will always give whatever help we can to families who want to take advantage of these additional resources.

We are proud to accept children with varying abilities and to provide them with care and support in an integrated setting. Our Supervisor and a Special Needs Resource Teacher will work with the family of a child who has physical, psychological, or developmental challenges to determine the child's requirements for infrastructure, extra services, and staff support. Together we will set up and implement an appropriate program for the child. Our special needs consultants are primarily from the not-for-profit organization called Adventure Place.

If, for reasons beyond our control, the child is unable to cope in our program, our Supervisor and consultant will work with the family to find a solution. Whether this involves providing additional resources at the Centre or arranging an alternative care environment, we will continue to support the family until the child's needs are met.

OUR PROGRAM

PHILOSOPHY

We recognize that each child is an individual with a unique pattern of interests, capabilities, and aspirations. These qualities must be nurtured in a healthy and safe environment in which the child can develop physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Each child can build independence, self-esteem, and self-regulation in our warm and caring environment.

We strive to create a supportive family atmosphere in which the program is an extension of the home, community, and school. Our program is designed to:

- Provide a welcoming and stimulating environment
- Encourage the development of a positive self-concept within each child and a positive concept of family and community
- Provide opportunities for the children to develop self-expression and language enrichment
- Create experiences that promote children's knowledge and understanding of their environment and the world around them
- Provide a safe environment for all children at all times
- Ensure co-ordination between child care and school programs
- Encourage family involvement and co-operation
- Provide opportunities for the children to learn and play together and to share with others

REST & NAP TIME

Our Toddlers and Preschoolers have scheduled nap and rest periods for up to two hours a day. Each child has their own cots and each day their cot is made available to them. Often children will naturally locate their cot and rest quietly until they fall asleep. Teachers are in the classroom to ensure your child feel safe and secure and to offer them a gentle back rub, or song during this tender moment. At no time will your child be denied the opportunity to rest/sleep.

The Kindergarten and School aged children will have the opportunity to participate in downtime just after lunch on non-instructional days. However, they are not expected to nap nor will they be asked or forced to rest. If a Kindergarten or School aged child show signs of restlessness and teachers feel downtime will be to the child's advantage, your child will be given a quiet area to read or play with a quiet toy for a few moment

During instructional days, teachers provide the Kindergarten and School age children with an opportunity to engage in quiet time upon entering the afterschool classroom.

This may involve story time or review of their school day, soft music and dim lights with deep breathing or an opportunity to converse quietly with peers. Teachers have found

this 10 to 15-minute strategy prepares the children for the afternoon ahead and gives them an opportunity to begin the process of self-regulation by acknowledging a change in environment, need and support. After quiet time, an open snack will be available.

The following changes have been made to our rest/nap time policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of July 20, 2020

Cots will be sanitized daily after each use, and personal items will sent home.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Children who spend more than six hours a day in a childcare setting must engage in at least two hours of outdoor activities. The Toddler and Preschool children will have the opportunity to participate in daily outdoor activities, weather permitting. If your child is ill and not able to attend in outdoor activities, chances are your child is too ill to be in the Child Care and therefore cannot engage in other activities.

All the teachers plan daily activities for the children that promote fine and gross motor skills and turn taking that challenges them to follow directions.

Children who spend less than six hours a day in a childcare setting are expected to engage in outdoor activities for minimum ½ hour. The Kindergarten and School age teachers will provide opportunities for the children to interact in planned outdoor activities, particularly during warmer weather. While outdoors, the children will have access to a variety of outdoor equipment and activities.

OFF-SITE PERMISSION & FIELD TRIPS

From time to time, we organize opportunities for the children to visit places or attend events that let them experience first- hand the things they have discussed in the classroom. Parent volunteers are welcome to accompany these trips and assist the teachers to make sure the children benefit safely from the experience.

Parents will be notified well in advance of any excursions, including community walks and field trips. A permission form will be available to parents outlining the location, date, arrival/departure time, mode of transportation, attire and reason for the trip. If the Child Care does not receive permission for your child to attend, it will be your responsibility to find alternative care and/or to drop your child off at the Centre when their group returns to their program

The following changes have been made to our field trips to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of July 20, 2020

Field trips have been cancelled until further notice.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Our neighbourhood is rich in diversity, and we embrace this by celebrating a wide range of national and religious/cultural holidays. Children are encouraged to value their own heritage, and to learn about and respect the heritage of others. Parents and caregivers are invited to celebrate special occasions with each classroom or enrich our special event by adding costumes, decorations, songs, folktales or helping hands.

CHILD GUIDANCE

WHAT'S EXPECTED OF THE CHILDREN

We expect all children to follow the basic rules of their classrooms and to treat one another with respect and courtesy. The classroom rules will be discussed with your child's group and reviewed throughout the year. A Code of Conduct has been developed for School aged children. Each family will receive the code of conduct to review with their children. Should you have any questions about the Code of Conduct, please speak with the Child Care Supervisor.

OUR APPROACH TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND CHILD GUIDANCE

When dealing with a conflict our staff members will address each situation individually. Children will be encouraged to talk about the situation and identify how they feel about the conflict. Staff member will ask the children open-ended questions to further understand the situation. The children will be encouraged to resolve conflicts with one another with staff acting as a mediator. If the children are unable to resolve the conflict, our staff will identify the problem with the children involved and come to a resolution on the children's behalf. Staff members may choose to do one of the following:

- Take turns;
- redirect the children; or
- remove the item and re-introduce it at a later date.

If the conflict continues to persist, the staff member will inform the parent of the conflict in an attempt to engage parents in the resolution process.

BITING POLICY

Biting incidents at Child Care can be a very emotional issue for the children and their parents. When they occur, Child Care staff should report these incidents to Toronto Public Health, as there is a small risk of transmitting blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis B, as well as skin infections.

Parents will be notified of any such incidents involving their child and will be asked to review and sign an accident report. The parents of the child who did the biting will also be notified and asked to review and sign an incident report. These reports will be copied and given to each parent and the original will be placed in each child's file.

CHILD GUIDANCE POLICY & STAFF

Staff members recognize and praise desirable behaviour, and as part of the learning process they also apply appropriate and logical consequences for undesirable behaviour.

However, Ontario's Child Care and Early Years Act forbid any of the following under any circumstances:

- *Corporal punishment of a child;*
- *deliberate harsh, degrading, or humiliating measures that would undermine the self-respect of a child;*
- *depriving a child of basic needs including food, clothing, shelter, or bedding; or*
- *locking or confining a child in a room separate from other children or adults.*

On rare occasions, physical restraints (full confinement of a child's arms, legs, and head) may be needed to defuse or prevent a violent or dangerous situation. When this happens, we will notify the child's parents and our Board. A Serious Occurrence Report must be filed with the Ontario Ministry of Education. If there is more than one occurrence with the same child, we will have to decide if the Centre is able to meet the needs of this child without risk or detriment to our other children.

The Executive Director and Program Supervisor has authority from the Board of Directors to suspend a child whose conduct threatens the safety of our staff or other children, or seriously interferes with the effective running of the Centre. The Supervisor will communicate with the City of Toronto's Children's Services to advise them of the situation, and the Child Care must ensure that all necessary procedures are followed before suspension takes place. Fees continue to be payable during the period of suspension.

If for any reason a child is suspended from Dublin Heights School or any other learning institution, that child will not be allowed to attend the Centre until the period of suspension is over. There will be no rebate of fees for the suspension period.

Parents will be responsible for any damage to Centre property caused by their child. We will make good the damage as quickly and economically as possible. A copy of the receipted invoice for the repair or replacement cost will be given to the child's parents, and reimbursement is required within one week.

PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Dublin Heights CCC adheres to the Ontario Regulation 137/15; 48 The Centre will not permit, with respect to a child receiving child care at a child care centre it operates or at a premises where it oversees the provision of child care,

- (a) corporal punishment of the child;
- (b) physical restraint of the child, such as confining the child to a high chair, car seat, stroller 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;
- (c) locking the exits of the child care centre or home 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 childcares emergency management policies and procedures;

(d) use of harsh or degrading measures or 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; (e) depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing or bedding; or (f) inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

IMMUNIZATION RECORDS, MEDICAL FORMS & EMERGENCY CONTACT

Immunization records for each child must be included in the completed registration package. If your child is not immunized, please provide the Child Care with a letter stating *that 'you object to immunization on the ground that the immunization conflicts with the parent's religion or conscience' or a legally qualified medical practitioner gives medical reasons in writing to the child care as to why the child should not be immunized'*. Section 35 (2) Child Care and Early Years Act/ Immunization

We also require a minimum of two (2) emergency contacts in the event the parents are not reachable. In addition, should your child require medication while in care, medical forms are available from your child's teacher at your request. Please complete the form, along with the prescribed medication with a childcare staff in the main child care.

PROCEDURE FOR ILLNESS

Children cannot get the full benefit of our program activities if they are not feeling well. Also, children at the Centre play outdoors for an hour twice a day except in awfully bad weather.

We ask parents to keep children at home if they are too ill to play outdoors or to participate in the classroom. A child who is sent home ill from Dublin Heights School may not come to the Centre until he or she is well enough to be re-admitted- generally **at least 48 hours** without symptoms from the time the child is picked up from the program.

A child who shows signs of illness during the day will be evaluated by a staff member to determine early symptoms of discomfort or potential illness. Parents may receive a courtesy call informing them that their child seems unwell. If the child continues to show signs of discomfort and is unable to participate in the program, parents will be contacted and asked to take their child home within **one** hour. A sick child may be isolated for the safety of other children, but a staff member will remain with the sick child until parents arrive.

A child who shows a fever of 100 F (38C or more and/or symptoms of infectious disease) will be asked to stay at home until his or her condition can be diagnosed with certainty.

The Supervisor stays in touch with the family, and the diagnosis is entered in the child's medial record at the Centre. Symptoms that call for further investigation or treatment include:

- Unusual skin rash or open sores.
- Respiratory distress, including persistent cough and heavy nasal discharge.
- Diarrhea or repeated vomiting;
- Red, swollen or runny eyes.
- Severe or persistent headache or other pain;
- Head lice
- COVID-19 symptoms.

Sick children are asked to remain at home until there is no further danger of infecting other children-generally **at least 48 hours** without symptoms. Toronto Public Health recommends exclusion periods for a list of infectious diseases (Appendix 1).

A child may return to the Centre at the end of the specified exclusion period or sooner if parents submit a doctor's certification that he or she can safely do so. A parent will have to provide a doctor's note for children absent from care due to illness for **three or more** consecutive days or will have to sign an attestation indicating that their child is safe and able to return to the daycare and partake of all activities. Your child will **NOT** be accepted into care without either note stating they are well enough to participate in the program.

Any child showing severe symptoms and needing immediate care will be transported to a hospital via ambulance. Parents will be notified immediately and will be expected to meet the staff at the hospital.

The following changes have been made to our procedures for illness policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of July 20, 2020

Should your child be sent home sick or be absent from the Centre for any period of time due to illness, we require a doctor's note stating your child is safe to return to the program.

REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

See Appendix 1

RETURNING TO THE CENTRE

Before your child can return to care, as mentioned, a doctor's note is needed for consecutive absences of three days or more. The signed doctor's note must specify, that your child is free and clear of infection and is well enough to return to the Child Care program on a specific date. Drop off is a good time for parents to communicate any special care or medication their child may need.

Childcare staff must receive the note before the parent leaves the premises. If a note is not available, the child cannot be left at the Centre.

The following changes have been made to our returning to the centre policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of December 4, 2020

Children returning back to the Centre due to illness or COVID like symptoms must complete the form [Attestation-for-Return-to-School.pdf \(toronto.ca\)](#) and return to the Centre on the date of the child's return.

COVID-19 Health Screening

In order to help reduce the risk of respiratory infections like COVID-19, a health screening is an essential step.

This procedure applies to all staff, children, clients, community members such as daily food deliveries or deliveries for program materials, and on occasion parents under specific situations. Everyone must be screened prior to entering the childcare. Only **One** entrance and **One** exit will be used. The procedure will include:

- Wearing of masks during drop off and pick up time for parents.
- Wearing of PPE (masks, gloves, and shield) during screening procedure for the staff.
- Daily temperature taking at drop off and when needed during the day.
- A screening questionnaire will be completed on-line before entering the Centre.

*If **"YES"** is answered to any of the questions or temperature exceeds **37.8 degrees celsius**, the child or the staff will not be permitted to enter the Centre. The child/staff must self-isolate, get tested or consult their health care professional for further guidance.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Medication can only be administered if forms have been completed by parents and the medication is in its original packaging with the; physician's name, the child's name, dosage and times, date of purchase and expiration if applicable and instructions for storage and administration.

Staff cannot administer medication if any of the above items are missing, incorrect, incomplete or illegible.

The following changes have been made to our medication administration policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19.

As of July 20, 2020

We will not be administering any prescribed medication unless it is for emergency purposes, such as the use of an EPI-Pen or inhaler.

ALLERGY PREVENTION

Our Child Care may have children or adults who have severe allergies that can be life threatening. Some people are allergic to fish, nuts (*most common*), scents, etc. To avoid cross contamination and triggering of an allergic reaction, we ask that ALL parents ensure their child rinses their mouth and washes their hands after eating nut items at home for breakfast. Our facility is nut free; therefore kindergarten and school age children's snacks and lunches cannot contain ANY kind of nut. Food from home cannot be brought into the main childcare, as our young children are curious and tend to put items in their mouths.

Please speak with the Child Care Management for more information.

ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

If your child suffers from severe allergies that cause an anaphylaxis reaction, please include this information in your child's registration form and request an Anaphylaxis form. This form must be completed by the parent. The form is an individual care plan for your child and must be signed and dated by the parent/guardian. In addition, a recent photo of your child must accompany the form.

Parents are expected to train the staff and Supervisor annually on the use of the special devices/medication or epinephrine auto-injector. Parents will also share specific details of signs and symptoms.

Your child's device/medication or epi-pen must stay on-site to be accessible in the event of a reaction.

They will be kept in your child's classroom backpack, which is stored away from the children's reach. Each student/supply teacher will be trained by the supervisor on how to use the device before they begin working in your child's classroom. School aged children may carry their own epi-pen or inhaler with parental permission.

We are well prepared to deal with serious allergies. Our food purchasing, preparation and service procedures and our sanitary and medication policies are designed to avoid careless or accidental exposure. As a condition of employment our staff are trained in emergency first aid, including the use of auto-injectors (epi-pens) and inhalers, and this training is updated annually.

INFECTION CONTROL

The Child Care and Early Years Act and Toronto Public Health Policies requires all licensed centre's to clean and disinfect equipment on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. In the event, our Centre experiences an outbreak, all sensory activities are closed and staff members clean surfaces several times a day to prevent the spread of germs. In addition, Toronto Public Health is contacted and a request to visit our facility is made. Often times a report is needed detailing specific information about the classrooms affected by an outbreak.

A hospital grade disinfectant is used on hard surfaces and a standard mix of bleach and water solution (1:10 pts or 1:100 pts) is used to disinfect all other surfaces. Soft toys and dress-up clothing are washed weekly or as needed and all other toys are run through the commercial dishwasher.

A Toronto Public Health officer visits the Child Care on an annual basis to ensure the Centre is well maintained.

The following changes have been made to our infection control policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of Sept. 1, 2020

Public Health Policies requires all licensed centres to clean and disinfect equipment on a daily basis. During this time, most sensory play such as cooking, water and sand play are unavailable, unless it is individualized.

A hospital grade disinfectant is used on hard surfaces and a standard mix of bleach and water solution (1:10 pts or 1:100 pts) is used to disinfect all other surfaces. Any toys or equipment that are not able to be disinfected are removed from the classroom. Toys are run through the commercial dishwasher.

In order to reduce the risk of respiratory infections like COVID-19, the staff will be wearing personal protective equipment such as masks while indoors with the children. Masks, face shields and gloves are worn during various times like diaper changes, comforting a distress child, and applying sunscreen.

EMERGENCY LOCATION

For evacuation purposes, Dublin Heights Community Child Care's emergency location is St. Roberts Catholic School located at 70 Bainbridge Ave., Toronto. The school is located beside Dublin Heights Elementary and Middle School. Should you receive a call from your child's teacher informing you of an evacuation, you will be expected to pick up your child immediately.

GENERAL SAFETY

The Child Care employs a variety of strategies to ensure the safety of the children and staff including the following

Children are never left alone

Staff members are responsible for keeping track of the number of children in their care.

Attendance is up to date.

Older children work in pairs

Food is kept at required temperature before serving

Staff are aware of positioning indoors and out

Annual training for staff members

Vulnerable Sector Screening completed for all staff members

Child Care doors are locked an intercom/buzzer system is used

Playground and Field are checked for unwanted objects

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENT REPORTS

Accident and incident reports are used to record each child's accidents while your child is in care. Staff members must complete each form, outlining what took place, where the accident or incident happened, what, if any, first aid treatment was used and what to do to prevent further accidents. The incident report provides a brief description of what took place during that time.

WASHROOM SAFETY

The Toddler and Preschool children use the washroom stalls in the main Child Care. During the washroom routine a staff member is present at all times to encourage and assist your child with the routine. Children are never left unattended during this time. Two Kindergarten classrooms have access to a washroom inside the room. One classroom is located down the hall from the main Child Care and the children are taken as a whole group by the teacher at different times.

Our school age programs also move in pairs to use the washroom. Girls escort girls and boys will escort boys to the washrooms facility.

At no times are adults permitted to use the children's washrooms.

TOILET LEARNING

Staff will assist parents and children through this stage in a positive and consistent manner. As each child's needs vary, the staff will work together with parent/guardians to develop an individual plan.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT POLICY

Any suspected child abuse will be reported to the Children's Aid Society as required by law. Staff members are trained in this area and will follow the necessary policy and procedures. Every person in Ontario is required under the Child and Family Services Act to report his/her belief that a child may be in need of protection: "A person who believes, on reasonable grounds, that a child is, or may be in need of protection shall forthwith report the belief and information, upon which it is based, to a society."

The legislation specifically requires individuals who perform professional or official duties with respect to children such as the 'operator or employee of a day nursery,' to report suspicions of child abuse. If in the course of their professional duties, the Supervisor and/or staff of the Child Care have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child may have been abused, the suspicion, and the information upon which that suspicion is based, must be reported immediately to the Children's Aid Society that best suits the family's background.

SMOKE FREE ACT

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in or near the Centre at any time.

This policy is dictated by:

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*;

The by-laws of the City of Toronto;

The provisions of the *Child Care and Early Years Act* of Ontario;

The regulations of the Toronto District School Board; and

Our concern for the health and safety of both our families and our staff.

It is also strictly forbidden to come into the Centre or to be in the presence of the children while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. All of our staff, volunteers and contract service providers are informed of this when they are hired. The prohibitions are strictly enforced, and any violation can be grounds for termination with cause.

For families and care-givers, violation of the smoking or intoxication ban will result in immediate removal from the premises, and repeated or persistent violation may result both in withdrawal of our services and in legal penalties.

In compliance with the Child Care and Early Years Act, we have posted 'No Smoking' signs prominently throughout the Centre.

SUN SAFETY POLICY

Staff will ensure that each child is wearing a hat during outdoor time on sunny days.

Children will be provided with fresh, cold water throughout the day to prevent dehydration. (Please provide your child with a refillable water bottle to be kept at the Centre.)

Sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30 is required for each child between June 1 and September 30. Sunscreen will be kept in your child's classroom. Make sure that it is labelled with your child's name, and is within its expiration date. We strongly recommend that you apply the sunscreen to your child a couple of times at home before sending it to the Centre, to make sure there are no adverse reactions.

Sunscreen will be applied 20-30 minutes before going outdoors. Older children may put on their own, under supervision. Staff will assist younger children, wearing disposable gloves to avoid cross-contamination.

During a smog alert, some of the children's outdoor activities may be rescheduled to an earlier part of the day- (7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.). Other activities including field trips may be postponed until the smog alert has been lifted. Children with pre-existing health conditions, such as asthma, will be carefully monitored for difficulty breathing, chest tightness, coughing or wheezing.

In compliance with the *Child Care and Early Years Act*, we have posted “No Smoking” signs prominently throughout the Centre, including signs in all classrooms, the playground, washrooms, offices, and reception areas.

EMERGENCY CARE PROCEDURES

Families will be notified in the event of any emergency or disruption and possible further disruption or changes to our program/site.

FIRE PREVENTION AND DRILLS

Fire drills are held monthly. Evacuation plans and fire procedures are posted in each room. All staff are fully aware of these procedures and will instruct children, students, volunteers, supply staff and parents of these procedures as necessary.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE

If an evacuation is ordered, Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc. will go to designated place of shelter and alert parents to the situation and designation via phone call. Our emergency shelter is:

St. Robert’s Elementary Catholic School
70 Bainbridge Ave,
North York, ON

TESTING OF WATER

Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc. is located in the newest section of Dublin Heights Elementary and Middle School. In order to ensure the child care’s water flow remains lead free, the School Board performs an annual testing and provides the child care supervisor with the reading. If the summary report does not meet legislative requirements, the supervisor will contact the Ministry of the Environment Public Inquiry Centre to report the summary and also report a Serious Occurrence.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CONFIDENTIALITY OF CHILDREN'S RECORDS

Children's records are considered confidential and available only to the Child Care Supervisor and his/her authorized representatives.

OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE

We welcome all families of the community to be part of our toddler and preschool programs. We work in collaboration with Dublin Heights E&M School to provide a before and/or after care program for all students. At this time, if you're part of our preschool program but out of the Dublin Heights school district, your child will be accepted into their junior kindergarten program as long as they are enrolled in our before and/or after care program. This rule is subject to change at any time. We strongly encourage you to reach out to the school directly for more information on this matter.

ITEMS REQUESTED FROM HOME

Toddler and Preschool children should come to Child Care with a few additional items: comfortable shoes (indoor/outdoor), 2 extra clothing, underwear, socks, diapers, pull-ups, creams, wipes, and lotions, favorite sleep toy, appropriate outdoor gear.

Kindergarten and School age children can bring extra clothing, appropriate outdoor gear, on non-instructional days, 2 healthy snacks and a lunch.

All children are encouraged to bring sunscreen. If your child suffers from a food allergy, we will contact our catering company to try to meet your child's dietary needs. However, if you prefer to supply additional foods, we will accept your child's alternative food providing it is nut free and approved by the Centre.

The following changes have been made to our items requested from home policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of Sept. 8, 2020

Children in the Toddler and Preschool program are required to have a clean pair of indoor shoes that will only be worn in their designated classroom.

WHAT THE CENTRE SUPPLIES

Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc. will supply meals throughout the day for your Toddler and Preschool child. We also provide a light after school snack for all Kindergarten and School age children.

MEALS AND SNACKS

We understand the importance of providing the children with nutritious well-balanced meal. We provide two snacks and a hot meal each day for the Toddler and Preschool Program. PM snack are provided for children in the Kindergarten and School-age programs. Lunches are catered by Wholesome Kids Catering who supplies delicious, health, all-natural meals. Choice Children Catering has a 4-week rotating menu cycle, featuring a variety of globally inspired dishes; the menu changes twice a year for variety.

Kindergarten and School age children provide their own snacks and lunches during PA day and School breaks. The Child Care will continue to provide late afternoon snack (3:00 p.m.). From time to time, our staff members will engage the children in food experiences where the children assist in the preparation of specialty foods. These special activities take into consideration individual allergies and are planned, primarily, to give the children an opportunity to enhance competency skills such as team building, turn taking, measuring, etc.

CUBBIES AND LOCKERS

Each child is assigned a cubby and coat hook where the child's outdoor clothes and shoes/boots are stored during the day. Children's artwork and other personal items may also be placed into cubbies by the caregivers/children to take home at the end of the day. Please ensure these are cleared out weekly.

School aged and Kindergarten children with lockers may keep their items in their lockers, provided lockers are on the first floor. If your child's locker is located on the second floor of the school, he/she will be asked to bring outdoor gear/backpacks to their Child Care room.

The following changes have been made to our cubbies and lockers policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of Sept 8, 2020

Children in the Toddler and Preschool program will continue to use their designated cubbies. Children in the Kindergarten and School-age program will need to bring all their items to the classroom and place them beside their seats.

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

For Toddler and Preschool parents, we recommend that families introduce a newly admitted child to the Centre gradually by spending time at the Centre with the child during the first week. Over the course of the first week, you and your child can stay a little longer each day until your child has experienced each portion of the day. Arrangements should be

made with the Supervisor. Staff will discuss any concerns or recommendations regarding the child's adjustment to the Centre with the family to ensure as smooth an entry as possible.

When you arrive at the Centre, allow yourself enough time to:

- a. Bring your child into the building;
- b. Remove outdoor clothing if necessary, and place it in the child's cubby;
- c. make sure you acknowledge your child's teacher at drop off to ensure your child is under the supervision of his or her program staff.
- d. Transfer any information to staff about your child.
- e. Complete medication forms; and
- f. Give extra hugs and kisses.

In order to allow children to settle smoothly into their programs and maintain the continuity of planned activities, we ask that all children in morning programs arrive at the Centre no later than by **9:30 a.m.**

If your child is sick and will be absent for the day, or will be arriving late, please call the Center and let us know as soon as possible but no later than **9:00 a.m.**

Kindergarten and School-aged parents are reminded that children need to be escorted into the school. Children in these age groups should NOT be walking into the school building unsupervised. Also, this gives parents the opportunity to pass on necessary information about your child directly to the morning staff person.

Pick-up

Children will only be allowed to leave the Centre with their custodial parents or authorized pick up., unless other arrangements have been made in advance with Management. Once you have arrived to pick up your child, to avoid confusion, parents must leave with their children at this time. No one under the age of 18 may be authorized to pick up a child.

From time to time you may want to ask a neighbour to pick up your child. Is it also common for parents who have children enrolled at the Centre to authorize each other to pick up their children. This gives them an emergency fallback and may help to avoid late pickups. No one under the age of 18 may be authorized to pick up a child.

It is particularly important that families provide the Centre with complete contact information for everyone who is authorized to pick up their children, and that this information is kept up to date.

Children will not be released in taxis, sent home unsupervised (alone) or sent home with any unauthorized person. This is something about which we are incredibly careful. Note that: Only those people listed as authorized are allowed to pick up a child.

Center staff have the right to request identification from any person picking up a child. Staff will not allow a child to leave the Centre with a person they do not know unless proper identification is produced and advanced notice from parents.

Children must be signed out by a staff member; they will initial the attendance register and indicate who has picked up the children.

The Centre is required to release children to either a parent or guardian or to a person listed as authorized unless a Family Court order indicating otherwise is on file at the Centre.

The following changes have been made to our pick-up/drop-off policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of Sept. 15, 2020

Drop-off

To ensure the health, safety, and well-being for all as well as stringent infection protection and control practices, throughout the 2020 fall program, and until further notice, we'll receive your child/rem at the front of the childcare centre. All parents must complete the daily online screening form prior to bringing their children on site. For before and after school programs, parents can drop off their children from 7:30am-8:30am. For Toddlers and Preschool programs, parents can drop off between 7:30am-9:30am. At this time, designated staff will confirm that the online screening has been completed and the temperature of the child will be taken. We understand this may be unsettling, however this is to ensure the Centre remains free of infection as much as possible. After the completion of this screening, one of the staff will escort your child to their classroom.

Pick-up

Parents will need to text the Centre at 416-707-8419 and inform that they are on site. Please provide parent's name, name of child/ren they are picking up and the program they are in. If room number is known, please provide that as well. Your child/ren will be brought to the front door. Any immediate exchange of information between you and the staff will happen during this time, as applicable. Any other less urgent communication will be done via email, as applicable. Late pick up charges will still be applied after 5:30pm.

PICK UP RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

Children will only be released to custodial parents (or emergency contact when necessary). If parents request persons other than the above mentioned to pick up the children from the Child Care, the staff must be notified in advance (we prefer written/signed notification).

LATE PICK-UP

The Center closes at 6:00 p.m. If you are going to be late picking up your child, please try to let us know as far in advance as possible, since two staff members must be assigned to stay with the child until you arrive.

We take late pickups very seriously. The experience is stressful for the children involved, and disruptive for the staff who must stay with them. There is a late fee for

picking up children after the scheduled closing time. The fee is charged at **\$10.00** for the first ten minutes and \$1.00 per minute thereafter until the parent leaves the Centre. This fee is charged per child.

Parents must sign a Late Form and pay the late fee directly, **in cash** to the staff members who worked overtime to stay with the child. No receipts will be issued for late fees. If a parent is unable to pay on the spot, or disputes the charge, staff will make a note of the matter and refer it to the Supervisor for resolution the next day. Failure to pay a late fee within **one week** of the date it was incurred will result in suspension of your space until the fee is paid, with no rebate of regular fees for the time your child is absent.

On the **fourth** and any subsequent occasion when a parent is late, there will be a **\$50.00** penalty in addition to the standard late fee. Should there be a sixth occasion of late pick-up, you may be asked to withdraw your child from the Centre.

If a child is still waiting at the Centre 45 minutes after the scheduled closing time and the staff has been unable to locate any of the persons authorized to pick up the child, then the Supervisor is called back to the Center and the President of the Board is notified. If the situation persists until one hour past the scheduled closing time, this meets the legal standard for child abandonment and the Supervisor or designated staff member **MUST** inform the police and Children's Aid Society.

If no authorized person has arrived or been contacted before the police reach the Centre, the child will be removed to a police station and be transferred to the custody of Children's Aid.

The following changes have been made to our late pick-up policies to align with Toronto Public Health and Safety Guidelines during COVID-19

As of Sept. 15, 2020

As stated in section 10 of the handbook, the centre's new operating hours (until further notice) will be Monday to Friday from **7:30am to 5:30pm**. A late fee will still apply during this time. From 5:31-5:40pm, the cost will be \$10.00 flat fee per child. From 5:40pm on, the cost will be a \$1.00 per minute per child. All other protocols will continue to be followed.

PARENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

All issues and/or concerns brought forward by parents are taken seriously by all members of the childcare and will be addressed. Every effort will be made to resolve the situation to the satisfaction of all parties as quickly as possible.

Issues/concerns/complaints can be made verbally or in writing. Responses and outcomes of the issue/concern/complaint will be provided in a timely manner. The level of details provided to the parents will be respected and will maintain confidentiality to all parties involved.

An initial response to the issue/concern/complaint will be provided to the parents within 2 (two) business days.

All investigations of issues/concerns/complaints will be fair, impartial, and respectful to all parties involved.

SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

In case of severely bad weather (extreme cold, heavy snow or freezing rain, for example) we will make every reasonable effort to keep the Centre open. However, we cannot operate without enough qualified staff to meet legal requirements and the Toronto District School Board's caretaking staff.

If Environment Canada issues a severe weather warning, we strongly urge parents to listen to the local news for school closure or call the Centre at (416) 638-0612 before leaving home in the morning. We will undertake to have an updated message about our status for the day on the Centre's answering service by 7 a.m.

If severe weather develops during the day and we are advised or ordered to close the Centre, we will notify all parents and ask them to pick up their children as soon as possible. We will make all reasonable efforts to give our families adequate notice of these closings. In the event that the Centre is required to close for weather, health or safety reasons, there will be no rebate of fees.

VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT POLICY

We will not under any circumstances tolerate violence or harassment to or by any of the people for whom Dublin Heights is responsible.

Violence and harassment include:

The exercise of physical force, whether actual, attempted or threatened, directed at any person inside the Centre;

Violent or threatening behaviour outside our Centre that is directly related to the business or relationships of the Centre;

Persistent or repeated insulting or hostile comments or conduct based on an individual's race, national origin or colour, religion, gender or sexual orientation, age, disability, or appearance, including the display of written or graphic material;
Persistent or repeated unwelcome sexual advances or solicitations;
Overt or implicit threats of reprisal for refusal of sexual advances or solicitation.

We teach our children that physical or psychological bullying, aggressive or territorial behaviour and the use of vulgar, profane, or abusive language are all unacceptable. Our staff member's model acceptable alternatives, and we expect parents and caregivers to do likewise.

In practical terms, we have a legal and moral responsibility as employers to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff, including students and volunteers. As providers of child care and early learning, we have a legal and moral responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of the children entrusted to us, and by extension their families and caregivers.

Prevention is the first priority of our workplace violence and harassment policies. In the planning of our facilities and our daily routines, we take all reasonable measures to minimize the opportunities for violent events to occur.

Our managers and staff are equipped by education and workplace training to defuse tension and manage disruptive behaviour. Operating procedures aim to stop threatening situations before they escalate and find constructive resolutions to misunderstandings or disputes.

For our staff, all incidents of workplace violence or harassment will result in disciplinary action, and serious or repeated incidents will be grounds for dismissal with cause. For our families, serious or repeated incidents of violence or harassment may be cause for withdrawal of our service

VACATION / ABSENCE POLICY

If your child will be absent, please call us by **9:00 a.m.** If the absence is due to a holiday, please inform the office. While your child is on vacation or ill, parents are required to pay the regular fee in order to maintain their child's space. We regret that space cannot be reserved if the child is temporarily withdrawn.

The only exception is during the summer months (July and August) if your child will not be attending the Kindergarten or School age summer program. An additional holding fee of **\$250.00** will be charged to parents on June 1st if your child will be rejoining the program in the school year. This fee is non-refundable and will be used toward your September fees.

Parents receiving a fee subsidy from the City of Toronto Children's Services and who plan to be absent for more than 20 consecutive days, must contact their casework for details.

PHONE CALLS

If you wish to speak with a Child Care staff, we encourage you to contact the Child Care at 416-638-0612. All communication with parents is a high priority. If your child's teacher is available, every effort will be made to connect you to that staff person.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

As part of our program the children are sometimes photographed and videotaped by the staff. If you chose not to have your child photographed, please indicate this to the Supervisor in writing or complete our Photo Consent form.

The pictures and video are used exclusively for the Centre, as classroom decoration, teaching aids and documentations required by the Ministry of Education. Particularly memorable photographs are posted in the classrooms. If you see a picture of your child that you would like to have, we would be pleased to send a copy to you. Due to concerns of confidentiality all parents and children are NOT permitted to using cameras or cell phone in the Child Care.

VOLUNTEER/STUDENT TEACHERS

The Centre prides itself on the safe and secure environment that it provides to the children. Volunteers and students must be 18 years of age and must provide a current criminal reference check or vulnerable sector screening.

Volunteers will be responsible for their child/ren while in the capacity of a volunteer, in the classroom or on school outings. For the purpose of accountability and safety, under no circumstances will volunteers or students be left alone with any child.

From time to time, college and university students registered in the Early Childhood Education program will be placed at Dublin Heights Community Child Care Inc. to complete their practicum. During this time, NO student will be left alone with the children- students and volunteers must always be in the presence of a staff member.

WITHDRAWAL PROCESS

Thirty days' notice must be given in writing if you are withdrawing your child/ren from the Centre. Fees will be charged up to and including the stated date of withdrawal, regardless of whether or not the child is in attendance during this period. No refunds will be provided for absent days, sick days, or holidays.

A family may be asked to withdraw a child from the Centre if we determine that our programs cannot meet the needs of the child. We will make this decision only after accessing resources to meet your child's needs, carefully documenting the situation in discussions between the family and the Board of Directors, and consultation with program advisors from the Ministry of Education Child Care Services and Toronto Children's Services.

In such cases we will make all reasonable efforts to assist the family to find alternative care.

The Board of Directors may also ask families to withdraw for persistent or repeated conduct that violates our principles and policies. Causes for withdrawal include, but are not limited to:

- g. Non-payment or persistent late payment of fees;
- h. Falsifying or failing to update personal/family information;
- i. Violent, threatening, or harassing behaviour;
- j. Offering a benefit in exchange for special treatment;
- k. Making groundless, mischievous, or malicious allegations against staff.

A family that is asked to withdraw will be given two weeks written notice. Fees will be charged up to and including the stated date of withdrawal, regardless of whether or not the child is in attendance during this period. No refunds will be provided for absent days, sick days or holidays.

In extreme cases, especially those involving violent, threatening or seriously disruptive behaviour, the Board may require the family to withdraw immediately. In such cases no portion of the deposit paid at the time of registration will be refunded.

PARKING

A drop off area is provided at the west side of the school for family members to park. Please use the spaces provided. If the parking spaces are filled, we ask that you park on Bainbridge Ave. We urge you not to leave your car running while you drop off or pick up your child. ONLY Vehicles displaying the accessible sticker can use the designated parking space.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

CHILD CARE FEES

Our daycare is a Not-for-Profit organization and therefore our fees are set to recover all of our operating costs. Usually, fee changes are effective January 1 of each year as part of our annual budgeting process. We make every reasonable effort to avoid additional increases, but if necessary, fees can be changed at any time with one month's notice.

As of January 2021, non-instructional days (PA days, winter break, and March break) are **NOT** included in the fees. Your monthly fees are calculated based on the number of operating days in the month. Your child/ren are still required to attend for the whole month.

Regular Program Daily Fee (as of Jan. 1, 2021) :

Toddler	\$51.77/day
Preschool	\$39.18/day
Kindergarten (Before and After)*	\$28.35/day
Kindergarten Aftercare ONLY*	\$22.10/day
School Age (Before and after) *	\$25.15/day
School Age Aftercare ONLY*	\$19.76/day

The aforementioned daily fees translate into the following monthly fees, for Jan.-Jun. 2021 with and without non-instructional days.

Program	Jan. (21 days or 20+1 PA day)	Feb. (20 days or 19+1 PA day)	Mar. (23 days or 18+5 March Break)	Apr. (22 days)	May. (21 days)	Jun. (22 days or 21+1 PA day)
Toddler	\$1087.17	\$1035.40	\$1190.71	\$1138.94	\$1087.17	\$1138.94
Preschool	\$822.78	\$783.60	\$901.14	\$861.96	\$822.78	\$861.96
Kinder (B/A)	\$595.35/ \$604.61	\$567.00/ \$576.26	\$652.05/ \$698.35	\$623.70	\$595.35	\$623.70/ \$632.96
Kinder (A only)	\$464.10/ \$479.61	\$442.00/ \$457.51	\$508.30/ \$585.85	\$486.20	\$464.10	\$486.20/ 501.71
School-age (B/A)	\$528.15/ \$545.86	\$503.00/ \$520.71	\$578.45/ \$667.00	553.30	\$528.15	\$553.30/ 571.01
School-age (A only)	\$414.96/ \$438.06	\$395.20/ \$418.30	\$454.48/ \$569.98	\$434.72	\$414.96	\$434.72/ \$457.82

Kindergarten and School Age Special Program Daily Fees (as of Jan. 1, 2021):

Kindergarten Non-instructional Day	\$37.61/day
School-age Non-Instructional Day	\$42.86/day

ENROLMENT, HOLDING AND LATE FEES

ENROLLMENT

Registration Fee: \$50.00, non-refundable, payable on acceptance for enrolment. Families subsidized at the time of registration are exempt from this fee.

Admission Deposit: \$250.00, payable on acceptance for enrollment, credited towards the first month's regular fees. Families subsidized at the time of registration are exempt from this fee.

HOLDING

Kindergarten and School age SUMMER holding fee: for children attending the Dublin Heights CCC summer program, a \$200.00 holding fee will be applied when confirming attendance. This fee is non-refundable and is used towards your Summer fee. This fee is due by the first of May.

Holding fee (all groups) to maintain your spot for September: for families not attending Dublin Heights CCC for July and August, a \$250.00 holding fee will be required in order to reserve your child's spot in the daycare in September. This fee is non-refundable and is used towards your September fee. This fee is due by the first of June.

LATE FEES

In the event where payment in full is not made by the first of any month, a **\$20.00** late fee will be charged after 5 business days. An additional **\$50.00** late fee will be charged after 10 business days.

FEE PAYMENT

Effective **September 1, 2019**, fees are paid via pre-authorized debit payment (PAP) and will be deducted the first week of each month. If there are circumstances when a parent is unable to pay via PAP, an email explaining the circumstance must be sent and approved by management. If approved, the parent(s) **must** provide six (6) months' worth of post-dated cheques to the Centre in order to avoid late payments.

Cheques should be made payable to: "Dublin heights Community Child Care Inc." And can be delivered to any one of the management team or dropped off in the Child Care office door. In the event where payment in full is not made by the first of any month, a \$20.00 late fee will be charged after five (5) business days. An additional \$50.00 late fee will be charged after 10 business days.

WITHDRAWAL

Parents who wish to withdraw their children from care must provide the Child Care with at least thirty days written notice, indicating the last day of care.

NSF

The Center will deposit cheques or PAP payments on the first business day of each month. If the bank returns a fee payment for any reason, the family will be required to replace the payment immediately by money order or certified cheque. In addition, the replacement payment will include a \$25.00 penalty charge plus all applicable bank fees.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND NON-PAYMENT

Families can contact the City of Toronto Children's Services division to inquire about a fee subsidy. The office is located at 1118 Finch Ave West, Unit 4, North York, Ontario, M3J 3J4. or by calling 3-1-1.

In the event that overdue fees are not forthcoming by the tenth business day of the month, the Assistant Supervisor will notify the family in writing that the child must be withdrawn from the Centre one week from the date of the Assistant Supervisor's letter unless the monthly fees and late charges are paid in full.

If there are persistent payment problems (fees paid late, PAP or cheques dishonoured more than once in a six-month period), the Supervisor is required to refer the situation to the Board for consideration.

We realize that from time to time, families suffer financial setbacks that make their normal obligations a burden. If you experience difficulty paying your fees, it is important that you discuss it with the Supervisor as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements can be made. We will refer you to apply for the City of Toronto childcare subsidy if you are eligible and not already covered.

If necessary, an appeal for special consideration or exemption may be submitted to the Board via a letter or email (dhcccboard@dhccc.ca). The letter should contain the reason(s) for special consideration, the expected duration of this situation and any other pertinent details the Board may need to make a well-informed decision.

YEAR END TAX RECEIPT

Year-end tax receipts are available at the end of February of the following year.



PARENT CONTRACT

SERVICE AGREEMENT between Dublin Heights Community Childcare (“the Centre”) and _____ (“the Parent/Guardian”) regarding _____ (the Child”).

In consideration for acceptance of the Child into the _____ program of the Centre, I agree without reservation to the following:

I have read and understand all the information contained in this *Parent Handbook* provided by the Centre.

I will follow the policies and procedures set out in this *Parent Handbook*, and any subsequent revisions, to the best of my ability.

If I have questions or concerns about the Centre’s policies, procedures or operations I will seek immediate clarification and guidance from the Centre’s Supervisor or Management team.

I will provide the Centre with all required personal information about me, my family and the child. I understand that the Centre can collect, use and disclose this information according to its Privacy Policy.

I will treat the Centre’s management, staff and property with respect at all times.

Parent’s Signature

Date

Management team Signature

Date

APPENDIX-



DISEASE	INFECTIOUS PERIOD	SIGNS & SYMPTOMS	EXCLUDE?
REPORTABLE			
CHICKENPOX Varicella-Zoster virus	2 days before to 5 days after onset of rash.	Rash with small blisters on top which become crusted; along with fever, itching, malaise and headache.	YES – for 5 days after onset of blisters/rash.
DIARRHEAL EPISODES	For duration of diarrhea.	Increase in frequency of stools and/or change to unformed loose or watery stool. May be accompanied with abdominal pain, mucous or blood in stool, fever, nausea.	YES – until symptom free for 24 hrs if a sporadic case and organism unknown or until a doctor determines child is not infectious. During an outbreak exclude until 48 hours symptom free. If organism is known, consult with TPH.
MEASLES Rubella Red Measles	2 days before onset of fever and cough. 3 to 5 days before onset of rash, until 4 days after onset of rash.	High fever, cough, runny nose, sensitive eyes, rash which begins on face and spreads down body, large red spots which often join together.	YES – until at least 4 days after onset of rash.
MUMPS	7 days before to 9 days after swelling of salivary glands. Most are infectious 2 days before onset of swelling.	Enlargement of salivary glands, possible swelling of cheeks and face. May include fever, headache, abdominal pain, or sometimes no apparent symptoms.	YES – for 9 days after first sign of swelling.
PERTUSSIS Whooping Cough	From onset of runny nose until 3 weeks after onset of whooping cough (paroxysms).	Usually begins as a cold with runny nose, low fever and cough. Cough progressively becomes worse and may result in a high pitched whoop sound. Loss of breath or vomiting after coughing bouts may occur. May last 6-10 weeks.	YES – for 5 days after appropriate treatment begins or for 3 weeks from onset of cough if untreated.
RUBELLA German Measles	Few days before until 7 days after onset of rash.	May not have symptoms or may have mild fever, sore throat, and swollen glands in neck without rash. Rash resembles small red spots which start on scalp and quickly spread over entire body. Transient red rash starting on scalp & face and spreads over entire body.	YES – for 7 days after onset of rash.
NON-REPORTABLE			
PINK EYE Conjunctivitis	For duration of illness or until 24 hours after treatment started.	Redness, itching, pain and discharge from the eye.	YES – if discharge is pus (yellow, thick) and until discharge is no longer present or until appropriate medication is taken for at least 24 hours.
COMMON COLD	1 day before until 7 days after onset of symptoms.	Runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever, headache, decrease of appetite.	No – unless too ill to take part in the activities. Yes – if fever is over 38°C and until 24 hours fever-free.
HAND, FOOT & MOUTH Coxsackie A16	For duration of illness, until the sores are completely healed. Stool can remain infectious for several weeks.	Characteristic rash: red spots, often with small blisters on top, appear on hands, feet and in mouth, lack of energy, fever, headache, sore throat, loss of appetite may last 7-10 days.	NO – if child feels well enough to participate in activities.
HEAD LICE	Until treated.	Many children have no symptoms. Sometimes itchy scalp.	YES – until appropriate treatment is completed.
IMPETIGO (Streptococcal)	From onset of rash until 1 day after start of treatment.	Pustules or crusted rash on face or exposed parts of body.	YES – exclude until appropriate treatment has been taken for at least 24 hrs.
FIFTH DISEASE Erythema Infectiosum Parvovirus B19	A week before the appearance of the rash; by the time the rash appears, child is probably no longer infectious.	May have mild fever, facial rash (slapped face appearance), possible lace-like rash first on arms, then on the rest of the body.	NO – if child feels well enough to participate in activities. Non-infectious after appearance of rash.
PINWORMS	Until treatment is complete and the female pinworms stop discharging eggs. Eggs remain infective indoors for about 2 weeks.	Itching of anal area, disturbed sleep, irritability, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps - may be symptom free.	NO – Reinfection from contaminated hands is common so handwashing needs to be reinforced.
RINGWORM (of the body)	As long as lesions are present.	A fungal disease of the skin. Usually appears as flat, spreading ring shaped lesions on arms and body. Lesion may be reddish, pustular and dry and scaly, or moist and crusted.	YES – until appropriate medication has been taken/applied for at least 24 hours.
SCABIES (Mite)	Until mites and eggs are destroyed by treatment, which is usually after 1 or 2 courses of treatment, a week apart.	Red, very itchy rash, often between fingers, on palms, underarms, wrists, sole, elbows, head & neck.	YES – until appropriate treatment has been taken/applied for at least 24 hours.
SCARLET FEVER (Streptococcal)	Until 24 hours after treatment started. In untreated, uncomplicated cases, 10-21 days.	Sore throat, fever, enlarged nodes on the neck, widespread bright red rash. Red rash commonly seen on neck, chest, axilla, elbow, groin & inner thigh, strawberry tongue; typically rash does not involve face, but there may be flushed cheeks. Rash feels like sandpaper. May also experience nausea and vomiting.	YES – until appropriate treatment has been taken for at least 24 hours.
STREP THROAT (Streptococcal)	Until 24 hours after treatment started. In untreated, uncomplicated cases, 10-21 days.	Fever and sore throat.	YES – until appropriate treatment has been taken for at least 24 hours.

To report a reportable disease or an outbreak please call the Toronto Public Health, Communicable Diseases Surveillance Unit at (416) 392-7411. All other inquiries can be directed to Toronto Health Connection at (416) 338-7600.

References:
Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, American Public Health Association, 2000.
2000 Red Book, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000.
Well Being, Canadian Paediatric Society, 1999.



