



Program Statement

Your children deserve the best and at Little Feet Big Dreams, we ensure that they experience a nurturing and caring environment while learning to develop their emotional, physical, intellectual and social skills. We are committed to ensuring the development of children is according to the Minister's policy statement on both the pedagogy and programming. Our policies and procedures at Little Feet Big Dreams include the best practices provided by the CCEYA. Our staff at Little Feet Big Dreams have been trained in various teaching concepts that reflect our commitment to early learning and child development. We believe that children learn best through a variety of experiences that reflect their interests in the areas of music and movement, physical development, emotional development, and social development.

All children are competent, capable, curious and rich in potential. Our teachers work alongside children to inspire, encourage and support them through their early learning experience. Our staff create a program for your children that resembles How Does Learning Happen? and create developmental goals for each child in our care. Through these goals we believe it is very important that we are consistent with the following statements:

- 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 sense.
- Every child is a capable communicator who expresses him or herself in many ways

Our Goals

Promote the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of the children

Our children's health and safety are always a priority while planning and decision making. All of our meals use "healthylicious" menus that are specifically designed to appeal to children palates. They take food children love and give them a healthy spin. Their amazing lunches and snacks are planned by their passionate team who delivers their promise each and every day. All of the menus and snacks are prepared in accordance with the CCEYA and the Canada Food Guide and they will cater to your child's allergies and/or food restrictions. All allergies and food restrictions will be posted in each classroom of our childcare centre. The staff review our anaphylaxis policy annually and are trained in emergency procedures. Our health inspections are always available in our front entrance to the families in our facility and one staff member always on site is a certified food handler. LFBDD's staff all have had a criminal reference check, a vulnerable sector search prior to being hired and every 5 years thereafter. In those 5 years the staff will sign off on the Ontario offense declaration. Our staff's immunizations records are also up to date with proof verified by the supervisor.

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Foster the engagement of an ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children

Our staff will greet children and families by name and with a smile at both drop off and pick up in order to foster a sense of belonging. The communication between parents and teachers is an essential component in fostering strong partnerships with our families. Teachers aim to communicate informally with parents on a regular basis, to share stories and experiences about their child's time at the Centre each day. Formal parent/teacher discussions are also an essential part of understanding a child's developmental progress. This allows for correct learning experiences to be established for each child. Please feel free to discuss your child's progress with his/her teacher, at a time convenient to both teacher and parent, however official parent/teacher discussions occur in May/. The children will also receive a written developmental report at the end of each year. Our parents are always welcome at the childcare centre where they are free to participate in classroom activities. Our staff communicate verbally, written, via email or text. Feel free to contact any staff to communicate about your child or the program at any time!

Offer a variety of activities to incorporate indoor/outdoor activities, quiet/rest times and well as active play and create a positive learning environment

Active play is a large part of our program. A variety of materials can always be found in the following centers of our classrooms – art, sensory, cozy and book, dramatic, block and floor toys. Our staff use the ECERS tool guide to help guide them. We encourage our children to be creative and to use their imagination. Indoor and outdoor play times are equally important in our centre. We connect and engage our children to nature as we explore the outdoors and outdoor playground and materials one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. We create individualized Support plans to those children who need to be supported by staff or resource consultants. We develop a plan that supports the children's full participation in our programs by using supports or aids or adaptations.

Support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents and childcare providers and staff

Our professional staff will help support and connect the children to our environment. They will play and extend the children's play reflect on what works well and have written documentation and photos that will help communicate with the parents and families. Our staff will use a warm, responsive and inclusive approach to build and maintain relationship. The staff will ensure materials provide many opportunities for the children to make choices, manipulate, express their interest. Any students or volunteers will read and review our policies. As the program statement is a living document, we reflect discuss and contribute to this often.

Foster the children's exploration and inquiry and adults will support the child initiated experience

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Our program is planned to meet the needs of all children and we support their development of initiative, imagination, express and understand feelings and self-regulations. No staff is to tell a child what to make or how to make it, staff are there to help expand their play. We allow the children to engage in the environment to foster their curiosity. We strive to ensure that our children feel like they belong, they make friends and interact with their teachers. We aim to integrate many different cultures into our program. Our documentation will be done to help make the children's learning visible.

Document and reviewing the strategies in the document on the children

Our staff must contribute to our program statement as we will review it as a whole team. Our teachers will be reviewed annually through our monitoring document. Our monthly staff meetings are a great place for our staff to discuss all strategies between staff and the supervisor. Staff will sign off on the program statement annually and prior to employment.

Involving local community partners who will support the children and their families

At LFBD we provide learning opportunities for practical work experience to members of the community through placements and volunteer work. We also partner with many organizations and agencies such as the region of Halton who support our children and families either financially or through in-kind support. With these partners we are able to collaborate and create opportunities for both the families and children.

Support staff or others who interact which children in relation to continuous professional learning

LFBD offers financial aid for staff to attend training and workshops with a minimum of 2 workshops per year. Many of these workshops are provided by the region of Halton or quality first. We also offer aid to make sure all of our staff are trained in standard first aid and Infant CPR which is a requirement for employment.

At LFBD we have created best practices and policies in support and respect of inclusion, we create an environment for all children to have a sense of belonging. From 6 months to 6 years of age, you can be assured that your child will leave Little Feet Big Dreams with confidence, self-esteem and the assurance that their next journey will be a safe and exciting one, having experienced the security and nurture at LFBD.

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