

# Huron Play School Co-operative

## Program Statement Implementation Policy

Updated: November 3, 2016

Huron Play School Cooperative, staff, students and volunteers will create a safe and nurturing environment for the children attending through the following means:

1. *Huron Play School child care providers and other staff or volunteers will implement the Program Statement through the following practices:*

### Relationship Building:

- Adults play with children and support children playing together. Adults make themselves available to children at their level. We don't supervise play, we join in.
- Adults talk to children and listen to them. Adults recognize and respect verbal and non-verbal communication;
- Children have opportunities to help during the daily routine and have responsibilities for themselves and for others (e.g. we help each other get undressed from outdoor play, hold hands while walking outside);
- Adults help children notice when there is a problem and adults and children work together to solve problems (e.g. we notice together when someone is sad, and strategize about how we can all help them);
- The Playschool environment reflects the people who are here (e.g. by displaying children's art work, photos of children and their families, and including pictures that reflect children's communities and experiences and the wider world);
- Group experiences (games, circle time) provide opportunities for children to participate as a group member;
- Children are given opportunities to celebrate together (e.g. birthdays), to thank those who help us (e.g. at snack time); and
- Adults model respect for children, each other and for the natural world.

### Physical and Mental Health and Wellness:

- Toronto Public Health guidelines for creating a healthy childcare environment are followed;

- All duty parents and teachers attend a parent orientation where we talk about how best to support children's development of capacities such as self-care, sense of self and self-regulation;
- The program recognizes the importance of physical play for young children and provides opportunities every day for gross motor play both inside and outside;
- Adults take advantage of opportunities to talk with children about self care (e.g. during snack, during bathroom routine);
- Adults offer help when asked and encourage children to help themselves (e.g. dressing, bathroom, snack); and
- Adults talk to children about emotions and help them to recognize their friends' emotions.

Active Involvement:

- Activities are planned based on adults' observations of children's interests (observations are documented by teachers weekly);
- Activities are open-ended, and give children choices about how they will participate in the activity;
- Teachers use Teacher Reports, the weekly newsletter and conversations with families to talk about what is happening in the classroom; and
- Weekly staff meetings provide teachers with opportunities to reflect on activities, discuss children's interests and to plan the program.

Language Rich Environment:

- Books & posters in the environment;
- Individual children's learning stories and documentation;
- Lots of music, singing, fingerplays throughout the day.

2. *Ensuring that any child in the care of Huron Play School will not be subject to any prohibited practices set out in section 48:*

(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 licensee's 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.

### 3. *Commitment to Children:*

Huron Play School commits to ensure the safety and well-being of all of the children in our care.

#### Annual Review:

All employees, students and volunteers will review and sign the program statement implementation policy prior to employment and going forward on an annual basis. A record of signatures of the employees, students and volunteers who have reviewed the program implementation policy will be retained on file by the Play School Director.

The Director of the Playschool will regularly work with staff and volunteers to reflect on their child caring practices. Efforts will be made to ensure that training and development in child-related topics are taken by staff to provide the appropriate tools and techniques required in their daily work.

#### Negative Behaviours:

Any staff member, student or volunteer that demonstrates any of the negative behaviour in the above section will be immediately removed from duty at the Play School until resolution by the Executive Committee. A report documenting the incident will be created and reviewed by the Program Director. Any actions will be reported to the Board and the Executive Committee will decide the appropriate next steps to deal with the individual and their actions. If the offending adult is re-instated at the Play School steps will be taken to ensure that this person is not left alone with any child at the Play School.

Huron Playschool recognizes and conforms with all the guidelines for reporting to the Ministry of Education, municipal children's services, child protection agencies, and professional colleagues.