

Huron Playschool Co-operative Inc.

Weather Policy

Updated: February 6, 2019

Huron Playschool Co-operative, through staff and active involvement of parents, provides a safe and nurturing outdoor environment where children are encouraged to develop their creative and constructive capacities through play. Children love outdoor play. There is more space to move and run and be active and loud, and there is lots to explore. All of our programs include outdoor play, and our nursery school forest program offers extended outdoor play (usually two hours).

Outdoor activities are dependent on environmental conditions. When there are reports from Environment Canada of dangerous winds or extended freezing rain with warnings that tree branches may fall, outdoor play will be cancelled. If there is thunder and/or lightening, outdoor play will be cancelled.

When the temperature is -18°C or lower with the wind chile, we will remain indoors. During warmer months the UV index, smog or heat alerts will be taken into consideration. If the UV is above 9.0 or there is a smog or heat alert there will be no outdoor time after 11:00 a.m.

We will play outside in all other weather, including rain. Most children LOVE to play in the rain.

Environment Canada's weather information service could be the deciding factor, and a teacher or co-op parent may call 416-661-0123. The Teacher/Director will make the decision.

How to Dress Your Child for Winter Weather (from one of our Blog Posts):

- 1) A warm coat: The thicker the better. Warmer coats are often more expensive, but the cost can be worth it. And you can usually get a great deal by picking up coats second-hand. Check out Value Village or any kids clothing consignment store.
- 2) Snowpants: These usually come with the winter coat, although you can also purchase them separately. Snowpants keep the wind out and mean that when children come in from outdoor play and peel off their layers, the clothes underneath are usually dry.
- 3) Boots: A good pair of boots will keep toes warm and socks dry. Remember to bring indoor shoes for children to change into.
- 4) Mittens: A good parenting tip I learned is to buy a whole bunch of cheap mittens and keep them in a basket. Children will spend all winter long losing one mitten and then the other, so it's always good to have some spares on hand. Note: Waterproof mittens are essential for playing in the snow, but many children will not wear them unless they need

them because it is harder for them to hold and carry things. Send two or three pairs of mittens.

- 5) A Neckwarmer: More portable than a scarf and safer too, a neckwarm keeps the wind off one's collar. Not essential but nice to have.
- 6) A Hat: There is a brief window in childhood (post baby and before preteen) in which children are actually willing to wear their winter hats. Take advantage of this with something that covers the ears. And with a hood pulled up over a warm hat, the child inside can expect to be snugly warm.

... and Summer Weather

- 1) A wide-brimmed hat that provides shade for the face and neck
- 2) Non-transparent clothing (fabrics with a tight weave) to provide protection from the sun.
- 3) Sunscreen (see the resource below for some great information about sunscreen). Please provide sunscreen to Playschool if your child will be at Playschool all day.

... and Spring and Fall Weather

- 1) Sunscreen (see the resource below for some great information about sunscreen). Please provide sunscreen to Playschool if your child will be at Playschool all day. The weather may not be hot in May and June, but the sun can be strong. Don't forget sunscreen at this time of year.
- 2) Rainy Weather: We play outside on rainy days! A rain coat (waterproof), rain pants and rain boots are essential in wet weather. Rain pants can be helpful even when it is not raining. They add another layer of warmth and help to keep indoor clothes dry in damp weather, and free of mud and dirt. A light coat (windproof) is great for days that are too warm for a winter coat.

The Playschool recommends the following resources from the Canadian Childcare Federation:

Sunshine: Approach with Caution http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/wp-content/uploads/RS_20-e.pdf

When Jack Frost Comes Nipping http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/wp-content/uploads/RS_18-e.pdf