

At Sugar N Spice Riverbend location we believe that children learn through play and meaningful interactions with adults and children. We see each child as a unique individual, developing at their own pace and eager to learn. We support each child to develop to their fullest potential by meeting individual needs.

Through our interactions with the children we develop trusting relationships, getting down to their level, asking open ended questions, taking part in their play allows us to get to know each child, their developmental needs and interests. Peer relationships are supported and encouraged by offering experiences that allow children to share, turn taking and co-operate, this teaches the children to have respect in their social interactions.

When we are planning activities and setting up the environment we consider all aspects of the children's development (Physical, social, emotional and intellectual) as well as individual interest. By observing and documenting the children's play we are able to provide planned activities based on their interests and individual/group needs. These observations are done by staff observing the children, filling out observation sheets in the binder and discussing the observations with the staff. Along with planned activities we also respond to spontaneous moment by adding props and materials as the children show interest.

We provide a nurturing and supportive environment by setting up various learning centres to promote individual and group play, by "bringing the outdoors in" and providing natural and recycled play materials. Toys and materials are rotated based on the children's ever changing interests. Play experiences are designed through the learning environment which consists of areas such as:

- Daily Living Centre which offers dress up clothes, dishes, multi cultural dolls, etc. Where children can use their imagination to role play and learn about the world around them.
- Block Area with a variety of blocks, tools, cars, where children can use their imagination and creative thinking to plan, build and create different types of structures and learn concepts such as sorting, math, balance, etc.
- Art Area which offers all types of paper, crayons, markers, stencils, scissors, glue, etc. This is where the children are encouraged to create using their own imagination and creativity.
- Sand and Water Tables which offers scoops, mini shovels, funnels, containers, where children learn concepts such as floating, empty/full, shallow/deep, etc.
- Science Table with items such as magnets, magnifying glasses, nature items, where children are able to explore and discover the world of Science.

To support the learning and development of all children our daily schedule is flexible, with long periods of free play to allow children to develop their ideas and give them the opportunity to finish their play. To promote smooth transitions, children are given notice of transitions (“Five minutes until...”) and are guided from one activity to the next in small groups. We view transitions as learning opportunities to promote developmental growth. Depending on the weather conditions, the children have opportunities to play outdoors, where they can explore the community and develop their physical abilities. During summer months we plan a special program for the children that include: field trips to the zoo, farm, children’s museums, etc. In-house guests such as Guitar Gary, Yoga Instructor, Clowns, Community Dentist, etc.

We encourage open communication with parents through daily interactions by discussing their child’s day, letting parents know about their child’s accomplishments, bring up any concerns that may arise. Monthly newsletters are distributed each month with center information regarding up-coming events, news from each rooms, fundraisers, center closures, etc. Display boards are posted with information of interest relevant to the families at our center such as outdoor play safety, nutritious snacks, etc. Portfolios are created for each child and are given to the parents and the end of June displaying their child’s growth.

Our centre reflects a wide range of cultures and we welcome all families to share their culture or special interests with us. Our program reflects similarities and differences in the children by posting photos, art work for others to see. Families are encouraged to volunteer by joining in on field trips, visiting, and sharing family trips by bringing in photos, souvenirs, etc. We invite members of the community to come and visit and talk to the children about their jobs such as Dentist, Police Officer, Member of Parliament, etc.