



OUR PHILOSOPHY

“ONE STEP AHEAD”

The philosophy of Willow Park Childcare is deeply rooted in a commitment to fostering the holistic development and well-being of young children through play-based learning. Our approach is built upon a foundation of several key principles and curricula:

1. Holistic Development: We prioritize the comprehensive development of each child, encompassing their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth. Our philosophy recognizes that children are multifaceted individuals with unique needs, and we are dedicated to nurturing every aspect of their development.

2. Learning Through Play: We firmly believe that play is the primary vehicle for learning during early childhood. Children are encouraged to explore, experiment, and express themselves through play, which serves as a fundamental catalyst for their growth and development.

3. Curricular Diversity: Our philosophy embraces a diverse range of curricula, including the Flight - Alberta's Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework, The Pyramid Model of social-emotional development, elements of the Reggio Emilia model, and Loris Malaguzzi's concept of the "100 languages/voices of children." We draw inspiration from these approaches to create a rich and engaging learning environment.

4. Environmental Education: We hold a deep appreciation for the environment as an educator in itself. Our physical spaces are carefully designed to stimulate curiosity and exploration, providing children with opportunities to learn from their surroundings.

5. Flexibility and Family Engagement: We view curriculum as a flexible tool that accommodates each child's unique needs and allows their families to actively participate in and influence our program. We believe that the collaboration between educators and families is vital for a child's success.

In essence, the philosophy of Willow Park Childcare is centered on providing a nurturing, inclusive, and supportive environment where children can freely explore, learn, and develop. Our commitment to holistic development, social-emotional well-being, the power of play, and a diverse range of curricular influences underscores our dedication to creating a well-rounded and enriching educational experience for every child in our care.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE A *NURTURING, SAFE AND STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT* WHERE CHILDREN CAN *GROW, LEARN, AND THRIVE.*



OUR APPROACH TO CHILDCARE

At Willow Park Childcare, our philosophy shall be applied through a series of practical and intentional approaches in daily childcare operations. This is to ensure we meet the Social, Physical, Intellectual, Creative and Emotional needs of each child in our care.

Here are some keyways in which this philosophy is put into action:

- 1. Play-Based Learning:** Emphasize play-based learning as the core of the curriculum. Encourage children to engage in activities that are both fun and educational. Provide a variety of play materials and settings to stimulate their creativity and curiosity.
- 2. Individualized Assessments:** Conduct individualized assessments of each child to understand their specific developmental needs, strengths, and challenges. Use these assessments to tailor your approach and activities to meet the unique requirements of each child.
- 3. Structured Routines:** Establish a consistent and predictable daily routine that provides stability and security for the children. Create a schedule that allows for a balance of free play, structured activities, group interactions, and quiet time.
- 4. Staff Training:** Ensure that childcare staff are well-trained and equipped to support children with diverse needs. Offer professional development opportunities focused on early childhood development, mental health, and social-emotional learning.
- 5. Social-Emotional Development:** Implement the Pyramid Model or other evidence-based practices to promote the social, emotional, and behavioral development of young children. Encourage children to express their feelings, build positive relationships, and resolve conflicts in healthy ways.
- 6. Inclusive Environment:** Create an inclusive environment where all children, including those with special needs, feel welcomed, valued, and supported. Provide resources, materials, and activities that accommodate diverse abilities and learning styles.
- 7. Family Engagement:** Establish open and regular communication with parents and caregivers. Share insights and observations about each child's progress and encourage parents to share their perspectives and concerns. Collaborate with families to support the child's development holistically.
- 8. Environment as Educator:** Design indoor and outdoor spaces that serve as additional educators. Consider the layout, materials, and resources in your childcare facility to promote exploration, critical thinking, and discovery.
- 9. Documentation and Observation:** Encourage educators to document children's play and learning experiences through observations, photographs, and notes. Use these records to assess progress, adapt activities, and communicate with parents about their child's development.
- 10. Flexibility and Adaptability:** Be flexible in your programming to cater to the diverse needs, interests, and abilities of each child. Adapt your approach based on ongoing assessments and feedback from children, families, and educators.
- 11. Continuous Monitoring and Improvement:** Continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of your program in meeting the philosophy's goals. Be open to making adjustments and improvements as needed to ensure the best outcomes for every child.

Incorporating these practical strategies into the daily operations of Willow Park Childcare ensures that the philosophy of holistic development, social-emotional well-being, and play-based learning becomes a lived experience for the children in your care. It creates a supportive, enriching, and inclusive environment where each child can thrive and develop to their fullest potential.