

WELCOME

Welcome to Our Alpha Family:

Welcome to Alpha Child Care Ltd., a unique child care centre serving many families in the Brampton area. Your time with us will be remembered with warmth, humour and a feeling of security. Why not buy a scrap book to keep all of your Child Care Treasures in? You and your child will have great fun putting special art work, cards, and pictures in your scrap book. These treasures will be cherished forever.

We are pleased that you have chosen Alpha Child Care for all your family's child care needs. If this is your first experience with a child care facility, or if you are joining us from another child care centre, prepare to be amazed at our professional and comprehensive child care services. You will be thrilled with how quickly your little one will grow and develop in a classroom of their peers, under the watchful eyes of our long term dedicated staff.

Alpha was created in 1981 by the late Catherine Humphreys ECE, B.A., out of the concern for the lack of quality care in the Brampton area. It continues to be family owned and operated by Catherine's son Greg Humphreys B.A. Mary Soundy B.A., RECE is Alpha's Manager of Operations and Development. Alpha has two locations one is located in south Brampton in the Peel Village area. This location is licensed for 77 children from toddlers to school age. Our other location is in North Brampton in the Springdale area. It is licensed for 128 children from infants to school age. Alpha Child Care is licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Education and must follow all guidelines as set out by the Child Care and Early Years Act 2014.

Alpha believes in quality care and knows that young children flourish in all areas of development when they are in supportive, caring and responsive relationships with adults. This is the foundation of quality

care. At Alpha we believe in working together, with parents as a team, to provide the best possible care and quality education for children. Alpha's comprehensive curriculum, which is based on the four foundations of Well-being, Expression, Engagement, and Belonging which are the key components to How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy (the understanding of how learning takes place and the philosophy and practice which supports that understanding of learning) for the Early Years, a professional learning resource guide about learning through relationships for children of all ages. It is our motto to go above and beyond most child care services in order to help our families feel content and confident throughout their stay with us. Alpha welcomes any information that parents feel would help to understand and care for their child more fully. When changes and or concerns arise in the home that could have an impact on the children's well-being, parents are to inform us so that we can have a better understanding of what the children may be experiencing and be more sensitive to their needs.

In order to answer any questions or concerns Alpha's supervisors, manager or owner would be more than happy to meet with parents at any time. Alpha values any input from parents as it helps them to continue to offer "high quality" care.

Once again, welcome to our Alpha family and we look forward to getting to know you and your child better.

Greg Humphreys Mary Soundy

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy:

Alpha believes that each child is a unique individual that is competent, capable, curious, rich in potential and develops at his/her own pace. Next to health and safety, the most important aspects to building a solid foundation are self-esteem, social skills and the confidence to handle any situation that may arise. It is with this solid foundation children contribute to society in a constructive manner. With good self-esteem and social skills, children will seek learning, will love to try new activities and will feel confident handling any challenges that come with learning in a multi-cultural world. All educators use every opportunity to ensure that the children are dealt with in a positive manner. This could include the use of positive affirmations, massaging the children's hands, rubbing the children's back, giving the children a hug



All children are treated equally, given ample opportunity to express their needs and concerns and each child will be listened to in an active manner all while preserving the child's dignity and self-worth.

The children are encouraged to grow and accept new challenges with the positive attitude that it is Okay to make mistakes. The learning experience and attempt are more important than the

outcome. Every child at Alpha feels that they belong and are valuable contributors to their surroundings and deserve every opportunity to succeed. It is the responsibility of the Early Childhood Educators who will address the children by name while providing an interesting and exciting environment in which the children can explore, play and inquire while building on what they are already capable of doing, and are interested in. The educators support the children's experiences by providing thought provoking questions in order for the children to enhance their own learning. Therefore, the children are having fun but learning without even knowing it, all of which is done within a caring, loving family atmosphere. Alpha strives to be a fully inclusive centre and a natural proportion of children with diverse needs will be accepted at Alpha provided Alpha can contribute positively to the child's life.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum:

Children learn through play. Play is a child's work and is Children learn through play. Play is a child's work and is equivalent to an adult doing their job at their place of employment each day. Through child initiated play and adult supported experiences a child learns ways of exploring the world, learning new skills and making new friends. Young children will flourish in all areas of development when they are in supportive, caring and responsive relationships with adults. This is the foundation of quality child care.

All aspects of the children's interests are incorporated into Alpha's holistic approach curriculum which will lead the children to new and exciting ideas and concepts. Children direct their own learning, have input into where they learn, decide when they learn, choose their own play experiences and materials that they want to explore. Alpha's curriculum offers a variety of age appropriate planned and spontaneous activities based on the interest of the children. The children explore and manipulate the materials provided for them in small groups in order to support physical and emotional safety, facilitate individual learning, build trusting relationships, focus on high quality interactions between educator and the child, and provides a context for positive behavior guidance strategies. Children in the same age group cultivate their skills at their own pace in order to achieve the necessary goals to enter the next developmental age category. Mastery of these skills is not necessarily accomplished at a specific time over the year but on a more sporadic scale. The children are exposed to a well-balanced curriculum which exposes them to a wide variety of open ended materials in which to manipulate in all areas of development which include Approaches to learning, Social and Emotional (Second Step Social Program), Physical Development and Health, Language, Literacy and Communication, Mathematics, Creative Arts, Science (Wings of Discovery Program) and Technology, Social Studies, and English Language. The children will also be exposed to an introduction to identifying items in the French language through our weekly French program. For example they will learn the days of the week in French and then at calendar time will sing the days of the week in English then in French.

Throughout the year the children will participate in numerous off premise excursions, to support extended learning of the children's particular interests such as visiting the zoo to see the animals if this is where the child's interest lies. The children's learning also reaches out to the community through local community walks and or special guest that visit the program to share and offer the children more learning opportunities.

If children experience difficulty in any of the developmental areas at any time, Alpha will immediately bring these concerns to the parents attention and if necessary, with parent permission, contact our local community partners Peel Inclusion Resource Services (PIRS) who will support the child, the family and Alpha's educators, to ensure that all the children's needs are being met.

Alpha is a non-denominational centre. However, Alpha does celebrate major holidays such as Easter, Christmas and Hallowe'en through non-religious programming. Alpha welcomes the opportunity to learn about and join in other cultural and religious festivals. Parents are welcome to share a special festival with Alpha in order that these celebrations can be incorporated into the curriculum

Goals and Expectations

The Early Years Study (Dr. Fraser Mustard Report, 1999) shows that the most important stage of life for learning and developing is from birth to six years of age. It is here that the groundwork for future learning is established. Reports have shown that children learn best through their own interests and it is through these interests that the educators provide stimulating and age appropriate activities that will enhance their existing skills. Throughout the day the educators observe, support and document these experiences through social interaction and posing thought provoking questions about what the children are doing with the materials. While engaged in the many activities set out by the educators, a photograph will be taken and then the educators will write a short social story outlining what the children are learning from participating in the activities made available to them throughout the day. Two weekly documents are completed by each educator and posted in the classroom for the families to see. These skills or goals are incorporated from the Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT) document. These skills then help the educators pinpoint exactly where a child falls developmentally on a Child Observation Record (COR). Alpha's program is directed toward the individual needs of the children. The development of self-esteem and proper social skills remains Alpha's number one priority

Graduating Age Categories

When your child joins our Alpha family they will be placed with peers of their own age grouping as children learn best when they are placed with peers that are within a six month age range. Children move to the next age grouping according to their developmental abilities. When it is apparent that your child has mastered the majority of goals within their age category we will then discuss with you moving them to the next classroom upon availability. If two children are developmentally ready at the same time, the older child will graduate first. In order to prepare for the move, whenever possible your child will visit the next classroom. The length of the visit will vary from day to day and from child to child as we want each of their visits to be positive.



Alpha Child Care Ltd.

COMMUNICATION



Parent Communication:

Alpha has a family atmosphere where educators build relationships with the children and the parents by maintaining an open door policy in which families are welcome to visit the centre at any time throughout the day. Alpha believes that families are the primary caretakers and a child's first and best teachers therefore, once a family joins the "Alpha Family" we become a team in their child's learning journey. Alpha has social evenings giving parents an opportunity to engage and mingle with other parents as well as their educators or parents may choose to come on trips with us, come to community helper day or visit us at the beginning or end of the day. There is also an opportunity for parents to represent their child's class on the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) that meets once per month. Alpha also invites parents to become involved in their child's learning, by initiating home and school activities such as journals and show'n'share projects. Our bi-monthly newsletters help to keep parents informed. Child assessments are completed twice a year and documentation of the children's learning journey are posted in the classroom. Parents will receive a copy of their child's portfolio along with their child's assessment in February and June of each year. Parent/educator conferences may be set up to discuss the children's progress.

In the event of an emergency Alpha has developed and implemented policies and procedures for everyone involved to follow. Parents will be notified as to where their child can be picked up. Parents will be notified through the most convenient communication method available to the educators. This may include but is not limited to phone, email, face book message, or text. After the emergency situation has taken place a debriefing will take place with educators, children and parents. As to what the situation was and if there are any changes that Alpha need s to make as a direct result of the situation.

In order to keep the channels of communication open and to ensure that parents have an avenue to share their concerns with Alpha Child Care, the following has been put into place to ensure that all concerns are dealt within two business. Alpha will make certain that all complaints and concerns are dealt with in a fair and equitable fashion.

When a parent has a concern or a complaint in regards to the centre and or its operation the preferred method of communication is for the parent to voice their concern to the supervisor immediately. It is important for the parent to speak to the supervisor immediately so that they can look at staffing, environment, other children, equipment, programing, etc. as part of their investigation in to the complaint. Since most complaints surround Mandatory policies and procedures required under the CCEYA, Fire Code or Best Practices, the supervisor will try to resolve the concern and or complaint by explaining: a) Alpha's policies and procedures b) Child Care and Early Years Act c) Public Health requirements d) Best Practice

If the supervisor is unable to satisfy the parent's concerns then they will offer to set up a meeting and or make a phone call to the Manager or Owner will be suggested to the parent. Upon agreement the supervisor will contact the Manager of owner to set up a meeting. They in turn will return the parents call or set up a meeting date within two business days.

If parents are uncomfortable approaching the supervisor Alpha Child Care Ltd has established other convenient ways they can make their concerns known.

- A. They can approach a member of the parent council in order for them to bring up the concern at the next parent council meeting. A list of parents' names who sit on the parent council will be posted in the front hall of the child care centre.
- B. Parents also have the option of jotting their concern down and putting it in the suggestion box that is located in the front hall of the childcare centre. All written concerns will be dealt with within two business days. Anonymous complaints will be considered however, it is impossible to meet with an anonymous individual and explain policies, procedures and mandatory laws if we don't know who it is. Often times an article will be put in the parent newsletter that explains the reasons behind a procedure.
- C. The e-mail address of Alphas supervisors, manager and owner are available on Alphas website for easy access by either computer or mobile device.

Many complaints revolve around, for example, unpaid fees, mandatory reports to Children's Aid, minor injuries caused by, for example, children falling while learning to walk, children sent home sick; to name a few. These issues which Alpha does its best to articulate in the Parent Enrolment Package and policies and procedures which are available for parents to view. However, where a parent is unwilling to accept mandatory or agreed upon practices (ie fee payment, sick policy) Alpha may conclude that the daycare/client relationship has broken down and child care services may be terminated (see policy # 04 26 Giving Notice to Clients)

A Retaliatory Complaint is when a parent makes a series of complaints to the childcare following, for example, a report to Children's Aid, an injury report, a request to a parent that their child may have a special need and requires an assessment, or a notice of outstanding fees. Parents seem to believe that these kinds of complaints will force Alpha to retreat from following mandatory or established procedures. Unfortunately, Alpha must follow all rules and regulations as set out by the Child Care and Early Years Act. Nonetheless, Alpha will investigate the nature of all Retaliatory Complaints and if necessary, notify an independent 3rd party to investigate the complaint. Ie. Ministry of Education program advisor or Children's Aid, Police. If the concern or complaint is about their child's behaviour the supervisor will follow policy 04 25 Parent/child Code of Conduct

All parent complaints and or concerns will be noted along with the dialogue that took place between the parent and or owner operator. These notes will be placed on the child's file. If the complaint or concern is an acquisition against an educator the supervisor/owner/ manager must report this to CAS which then becomes a serious occurrence see policy 02 20 Serious Occurrence.

OPERATING HOURS

Operating Hours:

3 Cathedral Road
Brampton, Ontario
L6W 2P1
Steeles/Highway 10
(905) 456-1811
Toddlers – Age 12

900 Peter Robertson Blvd
Brampton, Ontario
L6R 1A2
Bovaird/Bramalea Rd.
(905)458-4884
Infants – Age 12

Monday to Friday

6:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Extended Hours

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

www.alphachildcare.ca

Closures

Alpha is closed all statutory holidays. We close at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas and New Years Eve and at 6:00 p.m. promptly, for our Educators Awards Dinner. Alpha also reserves the right to close one extra day per year as a “Floating Holiday”. This day is usually scheduled around a statutory holiday. You will receive a two week notice of this closing. Full fees are payable for these closures.

Arrival

For an easy drop off in the morning it is best to have the same routine everyday. This will help your child feel safe and secure. Once you have hung up your child’s personal belongings proceed to your child’s classroom where you will be greeted warmly by your child’s educator. Please share any information which your child’s educator may need that day, give your child a big hug and kiss, remind them that you will be back later, then leave quickly. Once you have left the classroom, your child becomes the responsibility of their educator.

Departure

At the end of the day your child will be waiting for you. If you are running late please call the centre and let us know. This allows your child’s educator to give an age appropriate explanation to your child as to why you are running late. Once you or the designated

person has picked your child up from their classroom they become the sole responsibility of that person. **If you have more than one child please make sure that all children are with you at all times as this is a safety issue**

If someone other than yourself is picking up your child contact the centre to inform us of who is coming in your place. A brief description of the person coming, along with their legal name and approximate time of pick up is also necessary. The designated person will be asked for **picture identification**. Without this document we will be unable to release your child.

For the safety of your child teenagers under 18 years of age but older than 14 years of age and with your written permission will only be allowed to pick up children 3 years of age or older. Teenagers under 18 but older than 16 with your written permission will be allowed to pick up children under 3 years of age and any child with a special need. Written permission must include the name and phone number of the minor being authorized to pick your child up, the date(s) of pick up and the approximate time of pick up.

Orientation

Prior to your child starting with us we strongly encourage you to make visits with your child in order to help your child become familiar with their new environment. This also gives you an opportunity to observe the program in progress and possibly share any information with your child’s educator that may help your child smoothly transition into our centre. If your child is absent for any reason please give the centre a call to let us know the reason for the absence. If your child is absent for 2 days or more without notification from you, your child’s educator will place a care call to you to ensure that all is well with your child.

TUITION FEES

Tuition Fees:

Registration Fee

Alpha has a one time non-refundable registration fee of \$40.00 (per family) payable when your child starts with us. If there is not a spot for your child at the time of registration your child's name will be added to our waiting list. Parents will be able to check the wait list through our website at www.alphachildcare.ca . When your child's name comes to the top of the list we will then call you into the centre to complete the enrollment process.

Deposit

Once Alpha has a spot for your child you are required to pay a one week deposit fee that is equivalent to your weekly rate for day care (attending 5 days a week) or a two week deposit for part time (other than five days a week. **Cathedral location only**) at the time of registration. Deposits are held until your last week(s) with us and applied to the last weeks fees. This deposit will be updated annually to match current fees. Alpha reserves the right to use this money for any fee's, penalties etc, that it deems is owed to Alpha Child Care if you refuse to settle a debt to us in a timely manner

Withdrawing

Alpha requires two weeks **written** notice of your intent to withdraw from our program. This notice makes clear to Alpha of your intentions, and gives us the opportunity to call another family on our waiting list.

Fees

Fees are based on our core hours and reflect the age grouping of your child. Our fees are paid every two weeks in advance through electronic banking every other Monday. There are no reductions for absences due to illness or vacation. **A void cheque and the Electronic Banking Authorization Form must be received before your child may start.** If Alpha receives a return notice for any reason a \$25.00 service charge (for the first return of the calendar year and \$35.00 for each return thereafter) will be invoiced to your account. Please note that we process fees every second Monday but this withdrawal may not necessarily be withdrawn from your account on that day, depending on which bank you may deal with. **Parents are ultimately still responsible for any NSF charges regardless of what day the money is withdrawn from your**

account. Full time siblings will receive a 5% discount on the eldest child's fees. **"We raise our fees annually to reflect changes in the operating costs of the program."**

Late Fees

If it is after 6 p.m. when you pick up your child a late fee of \$30.00 for each 15 minutes or part thereof will be invoiced to your account. This late fee charge is to pay our educator for their overtime as per Alpha's policy and the Employment Standards Act. In the event of a discrepancy between clocks, the clock located in the front foyer will be used to determine the recorded time of pick up. You will be asked by the closing educator to sign a late fee form which verifies the exact time your child was picked up as well as what method of payment you would like us to use to pay this fee.

Referral Credit

Parents are our most effective form of advertising. Please indicate on your child's application form if you were referred to us by an existing family. If their child is currently enrolled in our centre, they will receive a \$50.00 credit to their account, after your child has been with us for more than 2 months

Child Care Receipts

Year end receipts for your child care expenses will be available on February 28th of each year. This receipt will reflect the total amount of child care fees which has been paid to Alpha the previous year and will only be issued to the payer. This receipt does not include field trips, deposits or fundraising. The payer is defined as the person whose name appears on the automatic withdrawal form. In cases where both parents make payments, the receipt will be issued jointly (i.e. one receipt for both parents) unless other arrangements have been made with your supervisor prior to the payments being made.

BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE TECHNIQUES

Behaviour Guidance Techniques:

Self-regulation is about how effectively and efficiently a child deals with stress (what the brain registers as a possible threat) on all five levels including biological, emotional, cognitive, social and empathy and then is able to calm themselves. Our educators support children's self-regulation through play partner interactions by following the lead of the children, observing their interest and taking note of how they interact with others within the classroom environment. Through continual observation and attention our educators support children in developing strategies to remain calm and to regulate their emotions while recognizing the effects of their actions on others. Through our Second Step Social/Emotional program the children learn to identify and understand feelings within themselves and others and how to respond in a socially acceptable and caring manner. The children are taught how to calm themselves through words (counting to ten) and or appropriate actions (rubbing their tummies) before attempting to work out a solution to a problem with a peer. The educators provide a supportive environment by providing choices of visually stimulating areas within the classroom (block centre dramatic centre) and visually calming areas in the classroom (book area, cozy book nook, sensory, cognitive area etc), in order to meet the needs of all the children throughout the day.



Alpha's educators are equipped with the tools to help children handle conflict in a positive manner and that throughout life there will always be consequences to their actions. The educators will often remind the children of the rules and limits that have been set out for them as well as redirect the children when necessary. Alpha's educators encourage discussion and give the children lots of choice and the tools they require to successfully work through social challenges. Through the use of the six steps of conflict resolution the educators help the children work through a conflict they may be having with a peer. The children are actively listened to and as a team the children together with the guidance of the educator, decide what plan of action they will take. For example if the children are arguing over a toy, they may decide that one of them will play with it for two minutes and then it will be the other child's turn to play with it. In all situations the children are encouraged to listen to one another and to help one another come to a solution that is acceptable to all parties involved. This could mean giving each other a hug, sharing a toy or any other positive action that the children can think of. The educator ensures that the

agreed upon solution is followed by all parties involved. This process gives the children a sense of belonging, develops a sense of self, health and well-being.

Our educators use positive reinforcement with the children and are always encouraging and building confidence within the children. Alpha uses the structured process of, Setting the Stage for Successful Behaviour to support the children when they are experiencing a challenging situation. This approach is based upon the concept that all behaviours happen for a reason or reasons. Once the reason is identified, this information is used to help develop strategies to help the child learn more successful ways of conducting themselves within their learning environment.

Any practice based on negative control techniques is not part of Alpha's Behaviour Guidance Practices. Prohibited practices include corporal punishment, harsh or belittling discipline including verbally belittling or threatening, physical restraints, depriving basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing or bedding, locking the exits of the child care centre for the purposes of confining a child or using a locked or lockable room or structure to confine a child if he/she has been separated from other children, confinement or restraint for the purpose of limiting a child's movement or inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will. The supervisor will ensure that a written record of the behavior guidance monitoring of all educators, and volunteers will be done twice annually in November and in May of each year or immediately following an observed or reported prohibited practice. All behavior guidance monitoring forms will be kept on the educators or volunteers file.

In the event that a supervisor observes or is made aware of a practice that is not supported, they will address the issue with the educator according to the strategies outlined in the policy # 0620 Violation of Behaviour Guidance in Alpha's Policy Manuel and Employee Disciplinary Policy.

DAILY ROUTINES

Daily Routines:

Routines give young children a sense of security and order. During routines, the educators help the children with their physical needs, plus their “self-help skills” such as using a spoon, or doing up a zipper, as well as body awareness, left and right, front and back. These times are also important for the development of social skills including empathy for another child’s needs, taking turns, using words and following directions. Children learn a great deal during routines. A schedule is posted in each of the classrooms in both written and pictorial style in order for both children and adults to follow

Rest Time

In accordance with the Child Care and Early Years Act and the “Joint Statement on Safe Sleep: Preventing Sudden Infant Deaths in Canada” document, Alpha believes that young children benefit greatly from a quiet rest period every day after lunch. If a child chooses not to sleep or has slept and is awake they may then engage in quiet activities on their beds or at the tables. A list of these activities is posted outside your child’s classroom. Throughout sleep time the educators will document periodic visual checks in order to monitor your child’s sleeping pattern, noting any changes to this pattern and sharing this information with the parents. In Alpha’s registration package you will be asked to sign a Sleep/Rest consultation form outlining Alpha’s sleep time procedure. Your child will be provided with a cot/crib with their name on it that is equipped with a sheet that is laundered weekly. Parents provide a light blanket for the educators to cover your child with throughout the quiet rest time. These items will be sent home every other week to be laundered or upon parent request.

Outdoor Discoveries

In accordance with the Child Care and Early Years Act 2014, the children will spend a one-hour period twice each day outside. Alpha believes that learning outside is as important as learning in the classroom, outdoors is viewed as the outdoor classroom. Alpha’s outdoor program plan is posted outside each classroom, it includes games and activities that the educators initiate with those children wishing to participate and any areas of interest that have been demonstrated by the children. These interests may be an extension of what the children were engaged in indoors. Alpha also has activities that cover all areas of development (dramatic, blocks, Sensory, creative etc) that introduce the children to different pieces of equipment. These activities help the children to develop not only their large muscles, but many other important areas including social skills, self-esteem, fine motor skills and cognitive skills. During inclement weather conditions the children will engage in gross motor activities indoors.

In the winter months, as a general rule the Infants and Toddlers will not go out if the temperature/wind chill factor is -10 Celsius or colder. The older children may go out for a short period of time as they are more active and can keep themselves warm. However, if the temperatures reach -15 or colder with or without the wind chill factor the preschool children will not go outside and if the temperatures reach -20 or colder the kindergarten children will not go outside. These are general guidelines but the final decision is that of the centre supervisor. In the summer months, the Region of Peel Health Department will notify us of a smog or heat alert, at which time the children will be

DAILY COMFORT ITEMS

kept indoors. If we do go outside on hot and humid days, it will be for short periods of time before 10:00 a.m. and/or after 3 p.m. Educators will ensure that your child has plenty of water to drink and will engage in small group activities in shaded areas. To help protect your child from the sun’s harmful rays your child will have sunscreen (SPF 25 or higher, which is provided by the parent) applied to all exposed skin areas. If no sunscreen is provided then your child will be dressed in long sleeve cotton shirts, long pants and a sun hat in order to protect your child from the sun’s harmful rays. When your child cannot use the playground, gross motor activities will be set up in the classroom.

Daily Comfort Items:

In order to help your child be as comfortable as possible throughout the day, the following items will help your child feel secure and safe:

Blanket for your child’s cot, diapers, creams and powders, Alpha provides the wipes, sunscreen – minimum 25 SPF, water bottle tooth brush, tooth paste and a plastic cup to hold them, backpack (to store all spare clothing), 2 pairs of shoes, one for indoors and one for outdoors, complete change of clothing appropriate for the weather, seasonal outdoor clothing

DUE TO HEALTH REGULATIONS AND THE SPREADING OF GERMS, BOTTLES AND/OR SOOTHERS CAN ONLY BE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN IN OUR INFANT PROGRAM

Spring/Fall - splash pants, rain boots, light jacket with a hood
Winter—warm hat, 2 pairs of mittens, warm boots, snow pants and a neck warmer
Summer - sunhat

PLEASE NO OPEN TOED SHOES, FLIP FLOPS, SLIPPERS, SANDALS, CROCS, UMBRELLAS, SUNGLASSES OR SCARVES AS ALL OF THESE ITEMS POSE A SAFETY HAZARD

These items can be left in your child’s cubby but we do ask that you replace any items that may have been sent home soiled. We also ask that clothing left in your child’s cubby be seasonally appropriate. If child care clothing are loaned to your child in order for him/her to go home dry and comfortable, we ask that you please wash them and return them to the centre promptly.

Please be sure to put your child’s full name on all items including the inside of their bag. This will ensure that all items are returned to you safely. Any unclaimed items will be donated to a charity at seasons end. (Please ask your supervisor about purchasing labels for your child)

CHILD ILLNESS

Child Illness:

Childhood illness is unavoidable and in some cases is essential to a healthy immune system as adults. Nonetheless, Alpha will try to control the spreading of germs in the best way possible and maintain the healthiest environment achievable. Alpha must follow (will use as reference material) the guidelines of Peel Region Public Health Department, Keeping on Track Manual and the guidelines as set out by the CCEY. Upon arrival each morning your child's educator will perform a quick visual health check on your child to ensure that your child is healthy enough to participate in our program, including participating in all outdoor activities for the day (If your child is not well enough to go outside they are not well enough to be left at the child care centre.) This helps to prevent the spread of any infectious disease. Alpha Child Care Centre also has a Fiduciary Duty to act in the best interest of each of the children and will make the final decision on a child's exemption from childcare due to illness.

If upon your child's arrival to the day care centre, they are displaying signs and symptoms of ill health the educator may refuse to accept the child for the day. Signs and Symptoms of ill health may include but are not limited to: a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, oozing sores or rashes, open wounds, similar symptoms to other children excluded from child care with a diagnosed illness, or a communicable disease, or any other illness that limits the child's ability to participate in the normal daily programs. If uncertain, the educator may decide to take the child's temperature **before** you leave the centre; though this is not the final determination of illness. If the child is unwell, to remain at the child care centre the educator and or on site supervisor or delegate will clearly outline the steps that need to be taken in order for your child to return to the centre. Such steps may include but are not limited to: exemption from child care for 24, 48 or 72 hours due to fears of transmitting an infectious disease, virus or cold; proof of prescription with the possible call to the pharmacy, Dr note clearly stating that the child is no longer contagious to the other children or a call to Children's Aid Society for advice and direction.

If a child begins to demonstrate signs and symptoms of ill health while in attendance at the day care such signs or symptoms could include but are not limited to: temperature over 100 degrees, flu like symptoms of vomiting and or diarrhea, suspected communicable disease based on information from the Peel Keeping on Track Manual, lethargic and or out of character the educator, will with the approval of the supervisor will call you at work to inform you that their child is demonstrating signs and symptoms of ill health and ask you to pick up your child as soon as possible. When possible the sick child will be excluded from the classroom until the parent/guardian/delegate arrives to pick the child up. Upon your arrival to pick up your ill health child



you will receive a sickness exclusion form that will clearly outline the procedure in which to follow in order for your child to be readmitted to the centre. This may include but is not limited to: exemption from the centre for 24, 48 or 72 hours due to fears of transmitting an infectious disease, virus or cold; proof of prescription with the possible call to the pharmacy, Dr note clearly stating that the child is no longer contagious to the other children or a call to Children's Aid Society for advice and direction. When returning to the child care centre the child must be able to participate in all aspects of the program including going outside.

In assessing the wellness of your child and his/her abilities to participate in the programs activities and despite written information from a doctor, the Supervisor has a Fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the child which may include but not limited to further exclusion from the program.

In the event that your child suffers a minor injury (scrapes, bruises, cuts) while in attendance at Alpha your child's educator will inform you of the injury and upon picking your child up at the end of the day we will have you sign (parent only) an occurrence report outlining the details of the incident and give you, the parent a copy of the report. If you have arranged for someone other than yourself to pick up your child a copy of the incident report will be faxed or emailed to you within 24 hours. Minor scrapes and bruises are an unfortunate part of growing up. A child never learns to walk without falling down a few times. We will always let you know of the circumstances around minor injuries. If the occurrence is of a serious nature you will be contacted immediately and possibly be asked to pick up your child and take them for further treatment. In extreme emergency situations an ambulance will be called to escort your child (along with the centre's supervisor) to the hospital. Any expenditures incurred will be the sole responsibility of the parent.

NUTRITION

Nutrition:

At lunch and snack times the educators discuss with the children the benefits of nutrition to their well-being and health. Through many discussions during these times children learn about healthy eating habits and the impact on life-long success. They learn where food comes from and what foods belong in the different food groups and the importance of eating a balance of these foods in order to maintain a healthy body. For example while the educators serve the children their milk they may ask the children where milk comes from. Based on their response the educators will give an at age appropriate explanation of the process of where milk comes from and how it appears at the lunch table. Educators will encourage the children to be independent by serving themselves at an age appropriate level and to tidy up their spot by scrapping their plate and placing them in the lunch/snack bucket after they are finished eating. Educators will encourage the children to use manners and socially acceptable behaviour while sitting at the table for lunch. This could include but not limited to sitting at the table with their chair tucked into the table with their feet on the floor, saying please and thank you and using their napkin properly.

All our meals are cooked on premise by Alpha's creative cooks who have their Food Handling Certificate through the Region of Peel's Health Department. Alpha's menus are on a (4 week for the winter and 3 week for the summer) rotational basis. Alpha's menus are rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains which are healthier and provide the body with a high concentration of vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber and are low in fat. Our diverse menus are nutritionally balanced, using Canada's Food Guide and have been verified by a Registered Dietician. Substitutions are supplied if a child has an allergy or a food restriction and special diets are respected. Alpha does its best to obtain a substitution that is as equal in nutritional value. Copies of Alpha's menus are included in the registration package and also can be found on our website.

The children will be provided with a morning snack around 8 a.m., a hot lunch around 11:30 a.m. and an afternoon snack around 3:30 p.m. (Infants and Toddlers will also be given a light snack around 5 p.m.). Alpha also supplies snack bags that are available in all the classrooms throughout the day for those children who may become hungry before the designated snack/lunch times. A basket of apples is always available at the end of the day for the children to enjoy on their way home from the child care centre. All the children have unlimited access to filtered drinking water throughout the day and are encourage to take water breaks throughout the day.

Should the occasion arise that parents wish to send a treat to their child's classroom, a complete list of ingredients must accompany the item. Please ask the children's educator for a list of preferred treats. The educators will also ensure that they familiarize themselves with all information concerning any medical conditions, exceptionalities, allergies, food restrictions, medical requirements, and parental

MEDICATION

preferences in respect to diet, exercise and rest time.

Alpha is a "NUT FREE" centre so please ensure that any food items brought to the centre do not contain nuts or nut products as there are several children who have a **life threatening allergy** to nuts.

Medication:

From time to time you may require our educators to administer prescription medication to your child. All medication must be in the original container clearly labelled with your child's name (not a sibling or a parent's) the doctor's instructions and the date of purchase.

Nonprescription medicines can mask symptoms of a more serious illness. All nonprescription medications must be in an unopened container with the date of purchase on it and accompanied by a specific doctor's note stating the name of the medication, the time of administration and the dosage. Doctor's notes are only valid for a period of 48 hours. Symptoms lasting longer need to be brought to your doctor's attention.

All known allergies must be reported to the centre upon registration plus an Allergy Awareness form must be completed which includes an Individual Action Plan specific for your child. If your child requires emergency medications such as puffers, EpiPens, Tylenol, or prescription creams to be kept at the centre, parents/guardians are responsible for supplying such medications and replacing them upon expiry. Parents/guardians are also responsible for completing the "As Needed Medication Chart" as well as supplying a doctor's note annually stating the reason for the medication, symptoms the child will have, the dosage to administer, the time lapse between doses and a time limit on these instructions (doctors notes must be renewed annually). All emergency medications will be kept in your child's classroom for easy access and will be administered if in the opinion of the educator it is necessary. Any child known to be anaphylactic **will be denied admission without an EpiPen accompanied by a doctor's note.**

Parents/Guardians are responsible for completing the entire Short Term Medication Chart (abbreviations are not accepted on this form) every day that your child is on medication. All medications must be given to an educator to be locked in the appropriate medication boxes (refrigerated or non refrigerated). **Please do not leave any form of medication in your child's bag/backpack.**

ALPHA EDUCATORS

Alpha Educators:

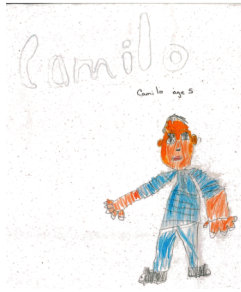
Alpha takes pride in our friendly long term educators. Early Childhood Educators are trained specifically to teach children from birth to age 6 and are registered with the College of Early Childhood Educators. The Early Childhood Educators hold themselves accountable and use the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Practice to guide their decisions and practice. Alpha believes that because the Early Childhood Education course is geared towards child development, these educators are extremely qualified to educate young children. Each educator was chosen to work on Alpha's team of experts because of their warm personality, nurturing mannerisms and their caring positive attitude. All educators engage in reflective practice and will assess their program and environment daily to ensure that the program is meeting the individual needs of the children and the group and that their environment is set up according to the interests of the children.

The program supervisor reviews and signs the weekly program plans and documentation to ensure that they meet Alpha's Program Statement requirements. Supervisors demonstrate pedagogical leadership by observing each of the classrooms and engaging with the educators and children regarding how the children are learning, what they need to learn and what is the best means for this learning to happen. Supervisors are consistently mentoring the educators to ensure that they have the proper tools to provide quality programming. This is accomplished through the supervisors doing classroom inspections and daily conversations about the learning that is happening in each of the classrooms. Annually all the supervisors complete a Licensing Checklist on their programs to ensure that program quality indicators have been met. Community Partners (Region of Peel Analysts) also mentor and provide resources to the educators in order to support quality programming.

All educators participate in professional development and do a minimum of 25 hours of professional development annually. All are trained in Standard First Aid and level C CPR which is renewed regularly by a qualified paramedic who specializes in preschool and

infant emergency situations. In addition to this, educators are kept abreast of new child care techniques, philosophies and research on child development. Once a year all educators must submit a clear criminal reference check which includes a vulnerable sector check.

Quite often through-out the year Alpha Child Care serves as a learning environment for college students and local co-op programs as well they welcome students who would like to volunteer at our sites. These students are here to learn about child development and to experience the challenges and successes of working in a child care environment. These students and volunteers are never included in the adult/child ratios as set out by the Child Care and Early Years Act 2014, and are never left alone with the children. Students and volunteers are assigned to an Alpha educator who then has the student shadow them throughout their placement. Parents must ensure that their child is left in the care of an Alpha educator and not with a student or volunteer. Alpha's Educators can be identified by the Alpha logo on their clothing or by their picture identification badge.



In accordance with the Child and Family Service Act, 72 (3), any educator with reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection must make a report directly to Children's Aid. This report must be made without any discussion with the supervisor, educators, parents or any other person employed at Alpha Child Care centre. All information is kept confidential.

All educators, volunteers and placement students will review the Program Statement prior to working in the program with the children and annually thereafter or upon any changes or modifications to the Statement. Annual review of the Program Statement ensures that educators and volunteers are knowledgeable and prepared to handle any situation.