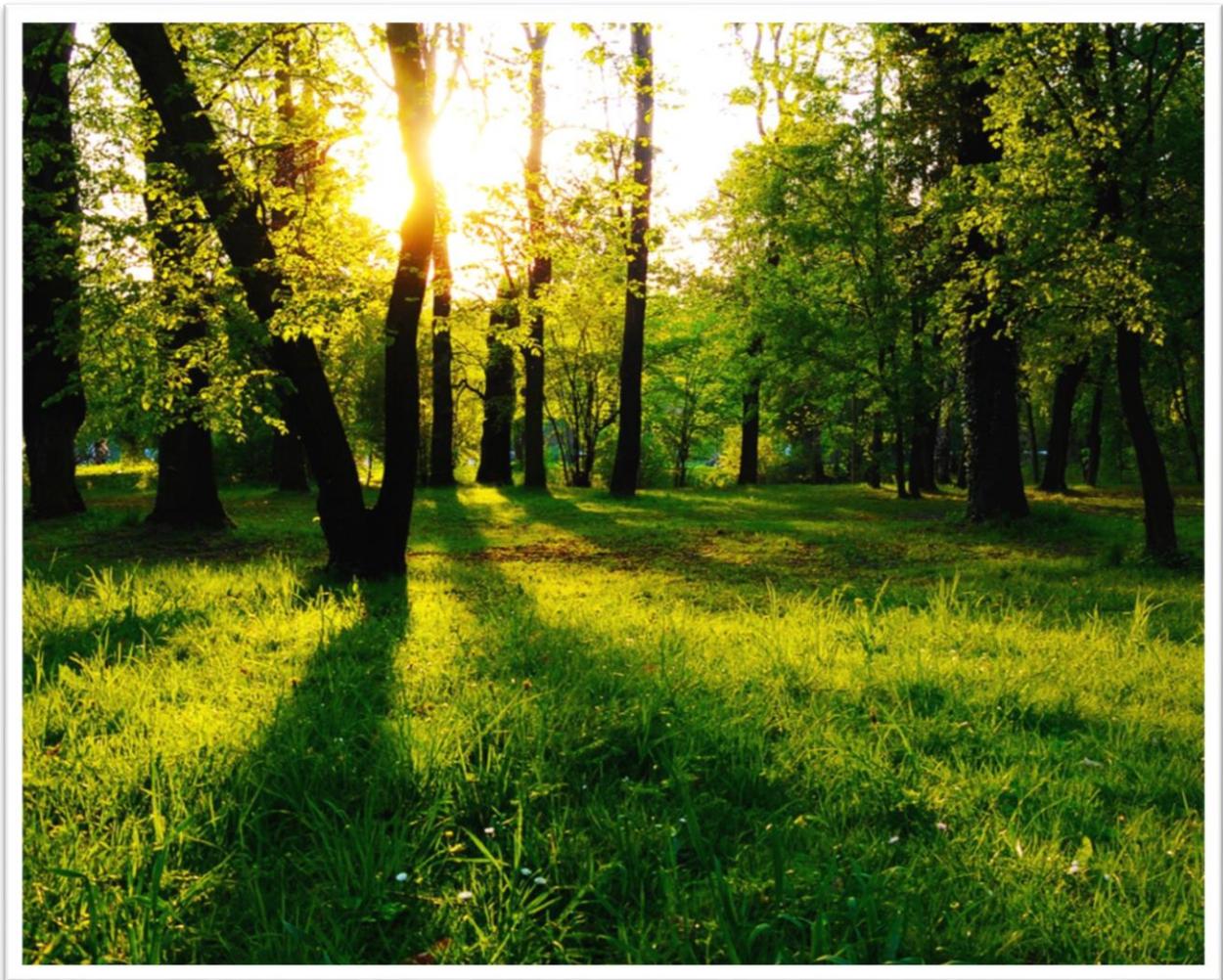


# Preschool 1

## Program Overview



# Welcome to Preschool 1

Preschool 1 is a multi-age setting, with children ranging in age between 2-5 years old. Our play experiences are based on the children's particular needs, interests, or development levels. We often design our program with specific skills or tasks in mind, helping the children to have the opportunity to learn at their own pace. In our profession this is called, "Emergent Curriculum".

Acknowledging the developmental needs of the children, some of the general goals and objectives we have are:

- Encouraging independence in the children to make choices for themselves, when choices are available, in a safe environment.
- Enhancing children's development in the three main areas-cognitive growth, social/emotional growth, and physical growth.
- Providing developmentally stimulating play experiences.
- Allowing children to explore a wide array of natural and interesting materials to provoke curiosity so they may have a better understanding of the world around them.

## Virtues

Discovery staff have been trained in the Virtues Project. We incorporate these virtues in our language with children. Staff can provide more information on the Virtues Project if you are interested. Here is a list of the 52 virtues:

assertiveness	diligence	integrity	reliability
caring	enthusiasm	joyfulness	respect
cleanliness	excellence	justice	responsibility
commitment	flexibility	kindness	self-discipline
compassion	forgiveness	love	service
confidence	friendliness	loyalty	tact
consideration	generosity	moderation	thankfulness
cooperation	gentleness	modesty	tolerance
courage	helpfulness	orderliness	trust
courtesy	honesty	patience	trustworthiness
creativity	honour	peacefulness	truthfulness
detachment	humility	perseverance	understanding
determination	idealism	purposefulness	unity

## Parent Communication

We consider ourselves to be an extension of your child's family and hope you feel the same. Besides daily verbal communication with our parents (guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles), we have a white board outside of the classroom. We would ask that you check it daily. It will have information regarding your child's day and other upcoming events. We also use a private Instagram account. This is a great way for staff to document the learning that we see each day. On Instagram you will find pictures of the children and a description of what is taking place. It is a great way for parents to get a glimpse of the various activities that the children are involved in at Discovery. The Remind App, which sends out text/email, is another tool that we use to keep families informed. We also encourage families to visit Discovery's website regularly for calendar events and centre news ([www.discoverycc.com](http://www.discoverycc.com)).

## Learning Stories

The Learning Stories Assessment approach is a form of observation and documentation that is written in a narrative story format. The teacher watches and listens as children explore through play. Reading learning stories is a wonderful opportunity to get a snapshot of a child's leaning and development for families. A copy of your child's learning story will be made available to you.

## Nature at Discovery Children's Centre

Our aim is to create an opportunity for children to develop a sense of wonder and appreciation for our natural world and experience the benefits of spending time outdoors. Studies have shown spending meaningful time in nature positively affects children physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively. Our hope is that this connection to nature will develop into a lifelong appreciation of our environment.

## Two Weeks Outdoors

The Two Weeks Outdoors is just as it sounds. We spend two weeks outside in the beautiful Manitoba weather. We take our classroom outside for the whole day during these weeks. We eat, nap, and play outside rain or shine. This could happen in the spring, summer or fall. We will give parents notice on the weeks that our room has chosen. We ask that the parents prepare their child for this time outdoors by having their backpack stocked up with our list of items we know they will need.

## Forest School Days

One day a week, for about 8 to 9 weeks, we will be having our classroom at Assiniboine Park. Parents will be asked to drop and pick up their children at the park in a designated area. We want the children to have a full day of freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated outdoor play where it is just the children and Nature. We will have tarps set up for shade and a place to rest and there is a bathroom close to the play area for the children to use. Like the Two Weeks Outdoors we will ask the parents to have their child come prepared for the day. We will provide additional information for some of the "natural challenges", such as poison ivy & ticks, upon request.

## Some Final Reminders

- Please have your child in appropriate “work clothes” as we have an optional smock policy at our centre. We believe that children learn best by doing. Some of the play experiences offered include water, paint, sand, cornstarch, and other messy materials.
- Please ensure your child has at least three changes of clothes in their locker at all times. Accidents sometimes occur and we do not provide extra clothes from the centre. Also, we spend a great deal of time outside. To make your child’s experience the most enjoyable, we would ask that they are dressed appropriately for the conditions.
- Please sign your child in/out daily. The sign in/out sheet will always be on the ledge as you walk into Preschool 1. Signing your child in/out is a two-step procedure:
  1. Write the time you have arrived in the square beside your child’s name.
  2. Communicate to the staff on-duty that your child is being dropped off/picked up.
- Our Centre Parent Policy Manual will give you a description of our behaviour management policy. We feel that when children are having a difficult time that they are telling us that they may need some extra support or even some time to themselves. This could mean many things including extra hugs, support in using words to solve a problem or reading a book or doing a puzzle on their own. This generally helps them to recompose themselves. We will address violence of any kind and will assess and respond to these incidents on an individual basis. We consistently encourage children to be respectful of one another, themselves, parents, and teachers. We also feel that personal responsibility is extremely important and know that young children can take ownership of their behaviours with assistance of caring adults.

## Children Transferring from the Infant Room to Preschool

When a child transfers from the Infant/Toddler Program to a Preschool Program, they will do 3 visits to help with the transition. A morning visit, a midday visit and an end of the day visit. Prior to the visits, a primary caregiver and secondary caregiver will be appointed for the child. These two staff will help the child in transitioning, doing diaper routines with the child and sharing with the family on how the child’s day went.

# Preschool One Daily Schedule

6:30am-7:30am	Children arriving prior to 7:30 are dropped off in the Flex program until our room opens.
7:30am-8:30am	Exploration play in the classroom, outside, or on the deck
8:30am-9:00am	Snack Time
9:00am -9:30am	Exploration Play/ Deck Play/ Play Experiences/ Bathroom Routine
9:30am-10:00am	Large Muscle Room
10:30am-11:30am	Outdoor Play/ Deck Play
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch Time and Bathroom Routine
12:30pm-2:30pm	Nap Time
1:00pm-3:00pm	Non-nappers free play in the classroom, outside, or on the deck and bathroom routine.
3:00pm-3:30pm	Snack Time
3:30pm-5:00pm	Outdoor Play/ Deck Play
5:00pm-5:30pm	Outdoor Play/ Deck Play/Exploration Play in the classroom
5:30pm-6:00pm	Children who are still in attendance will end their day in the Flex room.

Discovery's environment is set up to consider the unique needs of each child. We make changes to our daily program so that all children can access areas, materials, and activities in order to promote growth in all areas of his or her development.