



Information for Prospective Parents 2020-2021

Foothills Creative Beginnings Preschool and E.C.S. Association

Preschool & Kindergarten - Suite 2208, 120-5th Avenue West, Cochrane AB

403-851-5534 www.creativebeginnings.ca

Michele Steier
Jane McKeown
Erin Murphy

Preschool Director
Early Intervention Director
Early Intervention Director

michele.steier@foothillscreative.org
jane.mckeown@foothillscreative.org
erin.murphy@foothillscreative.org

“Thus a child learns, by wiggling skills through his fingers, and into himself by soaking up habits and attitudes of those around him, by pushing and pulling his own world. Thus a child learns, more through trial than error, more through pleasure than pain, more through experience than suggestion and telling, and more through suggestion than direction.

And thus a child learns through affection, through love, through patience, through understanding through belonging, through doing, and through being.

Day by day the child comes to know a little bit of what you know, a little bit more of what you think and understand. That which you dream and believe are in truth what is becoming that child. As you perceive dully or clearly, as you think fuzzily or sharply, as you believe foolishly or wisely, as you dream drably or goldenly, as you bear false witness or tell the truth, thus a child learns.”

By Frederick Moffett, New York Department of Education

Three and Four – Mixed Age Classes

Monday, Wednesday & Friday – Mornings - 9:00 – 11:30 am

Tuesday & Thursday – Mornings - 9:00 – 11:30 am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday – Afternoons - 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Our classes are mixed-age groups which support children's social emotional learning. Older/more mature children take on leadership roles, supporting younger less capable peers while building their own self confidence. Play is often more complex as older children extend younger children's ideas. Children also have the choice to play with peers of similar abilities and interests. Language development is fostered.

Costs:

Registration Fee:

\$40.00 (non-refundable)

Tuition:

\$180.00 per month for 2 days

\$240.00 per month for 3 days

Payment Options

Post Dated Cheques - Please make payments with post-dated cheques, September through June.

Cheques are required on or before the first day of school to secure your child's space in the program.

E-Transfer - payments can be sent to fcbdonna@telus.net

Cash - payments can be made to the teacher (a temporary receipt can be issued)

Welcome to Foothills Creative Beginnings (FCB) Preschool

The preschool is a non-profit society licensed by Calgary Area Child and Family Services. We are an independent, non-sectarian program.

Teachers - Our teachers are experienced and qualified through university degree programs or community college Early Childhood programs. Our program is not dependent on volunteer parents.

Classes - There are normally 12 children per class. A teachers and a teaching assistant supervise the activities. We reserve one space in each class for a child with special needs.

Programming

Free Play - Children are naturally active and play is essential to their social and intellectual growth. Through play children express their unique interests as they choose their own activities. Art materials allow for aesthetic pleasure and individual expression. The Block, Water, Sand and House centers provide opportunities for discovery, planning, experimentation and organization as children act out ideas and feelings about their world.

Sharing Literature - We read a story every day and use art, music, drama and activities to enhance and explore the ideas contained in the story. Literature provides a basis for discussion; enriches children's language; provides children with vicarious experiences both real and imaginary; provides models for story-telling and writing; and provides a pleasurable experience, which helps children see reading as desirable and worthwhile.

Art - Art is much more than a pleasant experience for the child. A picture is not as important to look at, as it is to create. Art is an interaction between the child and his/her environment which allows the child to develop a sense of who he or she is. The child's first permanent record takes the form of a "scribble". It is the beginning of expression, which leads not only to drawing and painting but to reading and writing and conversation.

Music - Our active music program uses melody, rhythm, movement and speech to involve the whole child. Gaining rhythmic sureness by chanting words or rhymes, by singing little songs, by clapping or walking to the beat of the music, is a pre-condition to success in reading, writing and learning. Through movement the child discovers how he moves, and how to control his body in the environment. Music helps in the development of speech through auditory awareness and listening skills. Music teaches concepts such as color, animal sounds, counting, sequencing etc. Music can give the joy of creation. The music session on Mondays and Thursdays is led by a music specialist.

Gym Time - Gym time allows for experimentation and exploration with a variety of equipment--balls, hoops, beanbags, balloons, parachute, etc. Attention is given to cooperation, self-control, listening skills, and playing within the rules.

Some of our Preschool Policies:

Classroom Visits: Due to COVID – 19 regulations you will need to arrange visits with the preschool director.

Toilet training: It is expected that children who come to preschool are toilet trained (special needs children excepted).

Clothing: Play clothes and non-slip shoes such as runners are a necessity at school for comfort and safety.

Discipline: Discipline is an on-going process. We provide lots of equipment and activities to engage the children. We redirect, and we encourage the children to generate their own solutions. If this is unsuccessful, the teacher may remove the child from the activity for a short time to allow the child a chance to calm and assess the situation. You, as a parent, would be informed so that together, with the child, we can work towards a solution.

Early Intervention (EI) Services Provided by Foothills Creative Beginnings (FCB)

FCB is happy to provide Early Intervention services for children who require access to these services. These services are fully funded through Alberta Education. Alberta Education offers different types of funding depending on the needs of the child. These include: Mild/Moderate (M/M) funding for children with either mild or moderate delays in development; Program Unit Funding (PUF) for children whose needs are more significant and; English Language Learner (ELL) funding for children who are new to learning English. FCB screens and assesses children and will apply for the appropriate funding for your child as required.

Mild/Moderate (M/M) Funding

A child who is eligible to receive M/M funding is a child who is diagnosed with a mild or moderate delay in one or two developmental areas. To qualify for this funding, the child must be between 3 years 8 months and 6 years old on September 1. A preschool aged child must be in their last of year of preschool and headed to kindergarten in the next academic year. The second year of MM funding must be accessed in the child's kindergarten year.

Funding is based on the screening and assessment results provided by FCB therapists. An Early Learning Coordinator (Certificated Teacher), develops the M/M program with input from the child's Early Learning Team (therapists, classroom teachers, therapists). The coordinator attends some therapy sessions, works closely with the parents, and provides the Individual Program Plan (IPP) to the parents and Alberta Education.

Alberta Education now requires that all children receiving Mild/Moderate services must have 475 hours of programming through the year. A Foothills Creative Beginnings Early Learning Coordinator will work with you to ensure that your child's program has 475 hours.

Program Unit Funding (PUF)

To be eligible to receive PUF funding, a child must be between 2 years 8 months and 5 years old as of September 1. The third year of funding must be accessed in the child's kindergarten year. The funding is secured from Alberta Education with classroom observations and test results provided by FCB therapists. An Early Learning Coordinator develops the PUF program, including their Individual Program Plan (IPP) with the child's Early Intervention team (therapists, classroom teacher, parents).

The IPP will include developmental goals for the child and include strategies for achieving these goals. Goals progress will be monitored and tracked through the child's IPP and observational notes. There are three IPP meetings throughout the school year that all members of the child's Early Intervention team are expected to attend.

Alberta Education now requires that all children receiving PUF services must have 400 hours of programming through the year. A Foothills Creative Beginnings Early Learning Coordinator will work with you to ensure that your child's program has 400 hours