



Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre Inc.

Parent Handbook

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CLINTON CO-OPERATIVE CHILDCARE CENTRE INC.

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Parent Handbook

Program Statement

The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre provides quality childcare for children from birth to twelve years within a nurturing and welcoming environment. At Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre, we are inspired by the framework of *"How Does Learning Happen: Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years"* and view each child as competent, capable, curious, and rich in potential.

We foster the health, safety, nutrition, and well-being of all children. The children are provided healthy and nutritious meals and snacks, following Canada's Food Guide and recommendations from licensed dietitians to ensure children's nutritional needs are met and menus are planned accordingly. Educators create positive eating environments by modeling language related to food, drink and eating and are responsive to the child's individual needs. To support the safety of all children, Educators ensure that all equipment and materials are in good repair, and Health and Safety Inspections are completed monthly. All Educators are certified and current in Standard First Aid, CPR and AED training, WHMIS and Safe Food Handling. In keeping children safe while they play and learn, Educators complete visual and emotional checks for each child upon arrival and communicate daily with parents and caregivers to ensure the health of the children.

We support positive and responsive interactions among the children, families, and Educators by creating a supportive and inclusive environment. By prioritizing meaningful interactions and actively listening, our Educators build nurturing relationships and secure attachments with each of the children and families. We value the foundations of the Circle of Security model and understand the importance of "being with" and connecting with each of the children and their families. We encourage families to share their experiences of their personal lives, children's interests, and day-to-day happenings to strengthen the bond between home and childcare and enrich the learning environment.

We encourage the children to interact and communicate in a positive way and support their ability to self-regulate. Our Educators model positive behaviors by showing children how to express themselves calmly and respectfully, how to listen actively to others, and they provide guidance for children in social interactions. We help children understand their own feelings and the feelings of others by validating feelings and encouraging children to consider how our words and actions might make others feel. We create a safe and supportive environment where children feel comfortable expressing themselves and we help children develop problem-solving skills. We allow children to embrace mistakes as opportunities for learning and growth.

We foster children's exploration, play and inquiry by providing open-ended learning experiences and unstructured play and exploration. We allow children to explore by offering a variety of open-ended materials that offer limitless possibilities. We foster a sense of wonder and curiosity by asking open-ended questions and providing opportunities for hands-on exploration. We support risk-taking and engage with children as co-explorers allowing children to explore on their own and make their own choices and discoveries.

We provide child-initiated and adult-supported experiences regularly. Our Educators observe and build on children's interests by engaging with the children and focusing on the inquisitiveness shown by the children. We allow children to take the lead in their learning experiences and allow children to explore on their own and make their own discoveries. As Educators, we follow their lead by expanding on their ideas and supporting their learning. We support the individual needs of the children and are flexible in our programming to allow children to make their own decisions on how they want to explore.

We plan for and create positive learning environments and experiences in which each child's learning and development is supported and which are inclusive of all children, including those with individualized plans. Our Educators are knowledgeable in child development and offer unstructured and spontaneous opportunities for play and exploration in a rich and diverse environment. We believe children learn through play and offer open-ended materials to enhance their learning. We observe each child's needs and abilities and create learning environments that are inclusive to all children by supporting them developmentally and cognitively.

We value the importance of both indoor and outdoor play, as well as active play, rest, and quiet time. Our Educators understand that outdoor play is beneficial for children's physical, mental and social well-being. The children explore outdoors with open-ended activities including loose parts and natural items from the natural environment. Exploring in the outdoor environment allows children to engage all their senses and connect with the natural world across different seasonal environments. We emphasize the importance of both the indoor and outdoor environments as learning spaces. It means by bringing aspects of the indoor environment outdoors and bringing elements of the outdoor environment indoors, children continue exploring and learning in an environment where they are comfortable exploring. To balance active play and rest and quiet time, all children are provided time to rest or engage in quiet activities. In a quiet room with soothing music, the infants rest according to their own individual sleep schedules and needs. The toddler and preschool programs provide a rest or quiet time after lunch dependent on the individual needs of the child. The Educators perform visual and physical checks to ensure the health and safety of the children.

We at Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre foster the engagement of and ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children, by creating a welcoming environment and secure relationships with each of our families. Our Educators greet each child and their families daily and have a conversation about the child's evening and morning, and any changes in the child's daily routine. Through the implementation of Lillio, our Educators communicate with our families and share daily happenings of the child's day, including photos, and meaningful documentation pieces. As a means of communication, families can comment to the Educators about the photos, ask questions about the child's day, or any wonderings about their child. Each month our Educators create monthly newsletters that are shared with our families through Lillio. We use social media and regular emails to communicate children's schedules, share happenings at the childcare center and share fundraising opportunities. Each Spring, we host our Annual General Meeting which includes a meal and entertainment for all families from each of our locations to come together and socialize.

We involve local community partners, and allow those partners to support the children, their families, and Educators, through being involved in community events. We believe in the importance of building relationships between children, families, our Educators, our Board of Directors, and community members. Children are an integral part of the community and therefore it is important that community partners be involved in the center. We create partnerships through field trips and walking excursions, donations from the community, fundraising events, and volunteer opportunities. We welcome community partners to visit the centre and share their knowledge and resources with the Educators and children. We collaborate with local secondary schools and post-secondary schools to provide co-operative education and placement opportunities for students pursuing a career in Early Childhood Education. Through space sharing with local elementary schools, our school age programs effectively operate in the school setting to provide a smooth transition from early childhood to school. The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre has a close partnership with the County of Huron, Huron Perth Public Health, our Resource Consultant, and other professional therapists to provide support to the center and our families.

All Educators participate in continuous professional learning. We respect and value each of our Educators as professionals. We provide learning opportunities and support Educators through professional development opportunities while attending training and courses both within and outside of the County. Through actively participating in workshops and conferences, reflective practice, and collaborative inquiry our Educators enhance their knowledge, skills, and effectiveness in supporting the learning and development of young children. Our Early Childhood Educators are registered and in good standing with the College of Early Childhood Educators and participate in Continuous Professional Learning as required by the College of Early Childhood Educators.

Through both formal and informal observation, we monitor the impact of our Program Statement on the children and their families. Regular documentation is completed and displayed in each program space.

At Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre, we strive to create an optimal atmosphere for children and their families by practicing the guidelines of the *"How Does Learning Happen?"* document. Our Educators create a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all children and their families to feel a sense of belonging, well-being, engagement, and expression. Through inquiry, communication, child-led exploration, we discover the diverse interests of each child, and guide them to learn life skills. Our Educators create documentation pieces for each child, and if possible, include skills described in the *Ontario Early Learning Framework – Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT)* document. We display documentation, children's artwork, photographs, and create documentation portfolios for each child. Our program statement is reviewed annually by all Educators at Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre. It is also reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with the Ministry's policy statement and reflects our current practices.

Childcare Policies

General Information

The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre main location and St. Joseph's before and after school program operates from 7:00 am-5:30 pm Monday to Friday. Our Goderich before and after school program located at Goderich Public School is open from 6:30 am-6:00 pm.

The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre main location offers care for infant, toddler, and preschool aged children from birth to 4 years old.

Our Kids Zone program located at St. Joseph's School only offers before and after school care for JK/SK and School aged children.

Our Kids Corner program located at the Goderich Public School only offers care for JK/SK and School aged children.

The Before and After school programs offer care for children before and after school, and on non-instructional school days.

Information such as fundraising, special events, and monthly invoices will be sent through email. The following items need to be sent to daycare with your child on a daily basis (please label all items with your child's name):

- a complete change of clothes
- weather appropriate clothes; such as mittens, hats, boots, splash pants etc.
- inside footwear
- blanket

We are a co-operative center which means parents are involved within different aspects of the center itself. Upon registration, parents are encouraged to sign up for a volunteer committee in which they feel they would be able to participate. Volunteer committee members may be called upon from time to time to assist in different areas of the center including fundraising events or indoor maintenance.

Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre has Emergency Policy and Procedures, as well as Fire Procedures. In emergency situations, parents will be notified by phone, email, and Lillio and/or social media as soon as possible after the situation occurs.

Registration Policy

When it is determined that a childcare space is available, the Executive Director will begin the registration process with the family. The parent/or guardian will receive a Registration package, the Parent Handbook and Lillio consent form. This can be done electronically, or a physical copy can be picked up by the family. The registration package, including all signatures and a copy of the child's immunization record must be returned before a child can start in any of our programs.

The Executive Director will arrange with the family a time for the family and their child to come for a tour of the center. The Executive Director will introduce the family to our Leadership and Financial teams, discuss policies including fees, payments and our parent calendars, as well as meet our Nutrition specialist to make aware of any allergies or food preferences. At the tour, the family and child (or children) will be welcomed into the child's age-specific program for a visit. This allows the family and children the opportunity to meet the Educators, ask each other questions, observe the program space and build a relationship before the child begins at the center.

Subsidy may be available to those families that qualify to have the full/or partial amount of their childcare costs paid by the County of Huron. Families are required to contact the County of Huron Social and Property Services to make an appointment and complete the application. All parental contributions are to be paid directly to the Clinton Co-operative Childcare Center.

Wait List

The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Center utilizes the oneHSN external waitlist system that all families (including internal families) are required to register with. The website is <http://onehsn.com/Huron>. The waitlist application includes the following information:

- Name of the child
- The child's date of birth
- Name of the parents/or guardians including contact information
- Requested age group
- Expected start date
- Days care is required
- Application date

The Executive Director monitors the oneHSN lists regularly and uses this to fill childcare spaces as they become available in each of our programs. The Executive Director reserves the right to manage the waitlist in the best interests of all Clinton Co-operative Childcare Center programs.

A family's waitlist status is based on numerous factors such as:

1. Available space (which is influenced by number of children currently enrolled)
2. Children transitioning to the next age group
3. Siblings of children currently enrolled
4. Application date
5. Referred children

There is no fee to place an application on the waitlist. All applicants are required to notify the Clinton Cooperative Childcare Center if any changes are to be made to the status of an application or if they no longer require childcare. In an attempt to keep the oneHSN waitlist most up-to-date, the Executive Director will periodically send an email to several applications near the top of the waitlist to inquire if their childcare needs have changed and confirm the current information on their application. The email allows the family two weeks to respond, and if no further contact is made, the application will be removed from our waitlist.

The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Center has flexible scheduling for our families so it is impossible to predict how quickly our waitlist will progress, and therefore Clinton Cooperative Childcare Center is unable to provide an approximate enrollment date for applications. Typical wait times range from 18 months to two years but can vary.

When a space becomes available, the Executive Director will reach out to the family through the contact information provided on the oneHSN application. The family will be offered a timeframe to accept the space. If there is no further communication, the Clinton Cooperative Childcare Center will remove the application from the waitlist. When a family accepts the childcare spot, the Executive Director will begin the registration process with the family.

Parental & Maternal Leave

As a family welcomes a new child to their home, the Clinton Cooperative Childcare Center recognizes that childcare needs may also change. When a family member begins parental or maternity leave, the family will not lose their childcare space and there is no fee or deposit required to hold the child's space. As Educators, we understand the importance of routine and consistency for a child's well-being, and we encourage families to continue care 1-3 days per week depending on current enrollment. We request those families be flexible with our scheduling and at times, we may need families to switch days to be able to offer care to another family. Two months prior to a family's parental or maternal leave coming to an end, we require families to reach out to the Executive Director to discuss their childcare needs.

Parent Calendar/Children's Schedules Policy

Parent Calendars will be emailed to families up to two months prior to the requested month. For example, the February Parent Calendar will be emailed to families in December. The due date to return the parent calendar will be clearly indicated on the calendar. The intent of scheduling in advance allows the Clinton Cooperative Childcare Center to schedule staff based on the needs of the individual program and allow the Executive Director to enroll new children from the oneHSN waitlist.

Children will be booked in when the calendar is submitted and on a first-come first-serve basis. The date and time of the submission will be noted on the calendar by the Leadership team. Children's schedules and all scheduling changes must be completed by the Leadership team. With our flexible scheduling at times there are more children enrolled in a program than licensed spaces. For example, two children might alternate days but depending on a change in the parents' schedule, they both may require care the same day.

The maximum capacity of a program will be decided by the number of licensed spaces, operating capacity, staffing and space. Once the capacity of a program is reached, children booking (depending when the parent calendar was returned) will be placed on a waitlist for that day. This is regardless of if the child attends full time, part time or casual. When a child is placed on the waitlist, the parent will be notified as soon as possible to confirm they have received the email, as well as allow the family adequate time to arrange alternate care. Every attempt will be made to book children in on the waitlist.

Immunizations

Before a child can begin in our programs, we are required to have a copy of their immunization record on file. Parents are also required to submit their child's immunization record to Huron Perth Public Health using the following link; <https://www.hp-ph.ca/en/health-matters/immunization-records-and-reporting.aspx>.

Emergency Cancellation/Snow Day Policy

To ensure the safety of employees, families and volunteers, the Centre may be closed due to inclement weather or an emergency in partnership with the Avon Maitland District School Board and the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board. If the main center or Before and After School Programs are closed due to unexpected circumstances, parents/and guardians who have children booked in for that day will not be charged for that day.

If the Avon Maitland District School Board which includes the Clinton Public School and Goderich Public School Before and After School Programs, or the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board, which includes our St. Joseph's Before and After School Program decides upon a closure of the school due to weather or emergency situations, the School Age Programs will be closed.

The Executive Director will decide based on the weather conditions, safety of staff, families and children to get to and from the Center and our ability to maintain ratios in programs if the Center will be open in unexpected circumstances. All efforts will be made to remain open if possible. Families will be notified through email, social media, and CKNX radio and 101.7.

Fee Policy

Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre is enrolled in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System (CWELCC). Base Fees are those which every parent is required to pay to attend. These include daily fees as well as the membership registration and annual renewal fee. Non-base fees are those which every parent is not required to pay, unless indicated by CCCC. These include fees for things such as walking excursion field trips, NSF charges, and late fees.

Base fees were reduced by 25% from September 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, with a further reduction of 37% beginning January 1, 2023. The fee schedule can be found at the end of this document.

Upon registration, there is a one-time non-refundable membership registration fee charged per family. An annual renewal fee will be charged each year thereafter. These are considered base fees.

For children under 6 years of age, the base fee for membership registration is \$12.00 and the base fee for the annual renewal is \$12.00.

For children 6 years of age and older, the base fee for membership registration is \$50.00 and the base fee for the annual renewal is \$40.00.

The base fee for the annual renewal may be waived at the Executive Director's discretion.

Board Members are not required to pay base fee membership registration and annual renewal fees.

The base fee membership registration and annual renewal fee is not covered by subsidies and is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre Inc. is a non-profit cooperative. It is extremely important that all families using the Centre's services keep their accounts in good standing to ensure the efficient operation of the programs. We do not have the ability to borrow to meet our short-term obligations.

Daily fees, which are base fees, are due on the 1st day of the month of care. We require all families to complete a monthly calendar to indicate the care required for the upcoming month. All calendars include a due date by which the calendar must be returned to the Leadership team. We understand that calendars are submitted up to two months in advance, but families are not required to pay for the month of care until the actual month. Payment options include cheque, cash or etransfers with the address fees@clintonchildcare.com. Etransfers are set up for auto deposit, please include the child's name on the notes when sending an etransfer. Monthly invoices will be sent at the beginning of the following month to the main account holder on each child's account. If there is a discrepancy, please contact the Financial Administrator when you receive your invoice either through a phone call to the center or the address finance@clintonchildcare.com.

For Example:

<u>Month of Attendance</u>	<u>Fees Due</u>	<u>Monthly Invoice</u>
January	Beginning of January	Beginning of February (for attendance in January)

Fee Schedule – Main Site and Before and After School at CPS/St.Joseph's

<u>Infants</u>	Full Day	\$21.74	
<u>Toddler</u>	Full Day	\$16.54	
<u>Preschool</u>	Full Day	\$16.07	
<u>JK/SK and School Age</u>		Children 6 years and older	Children under 6 years
	Full Day	\$ 26.50	\$12.29
	Before OR After	\$11.50	\$11.00
	Before AND After	\$17.00	\$12.00

Fee Schedule – Before and After School at Goderich Public School (GPS)

<u>JK/SK and School Age</u>		Children 6 years and older	Children under 6 years
	Full Day	\$ 30.00	\$13.94
	Before OR After	\$12.50	\$12.00
	Before AND After	\$19.50	\$12.00

If there is an NSF (Non-Sufficient Funds) charge, this is a non-base fee which you are required to pay. The NSF fee is \$50 and you are required to pay the fee by the end of the month it occurred. The child will not be scheduled for the next month until the NSF charge has been paid.

At 30 days past due the family will receive a standardized email stating the balance at this time and provide direction as to how payment can be made.

At 60 days past due the family will receive a formal letter by email as well as a hard-copy stating the current outstanding balance. The letter will outline the expected payment date, and if the account reaches 90 days outstanding that the child(ren) will not be able to attend until the balance is paid. The account will be brought to the attention of the Executive Director/Goderich Site Supervisor.

At 90 days past due the family will receive a formal letter by email as well as a hard copy. The letter will state that if payment is not made by the end of the next business day, the centre will be suspending childcare to the family immediately. The account will be reviewed with the Executive Director and brought to the attention of the Board of Directors.

At 90 days if the child(ren) are no longer attending, the family will receive a formal letter by email as well as a hard copy stating that their child(ren) will not be permitted to return to the centre until the outstanding balance is received in full.

Once children are registered, two weeks' notice is required to cancel any days for which your child is scheduled and/or to withdraw your child from the program. Notice must be sent to the Executive Director or Executive Director/Goderich Site Supervisor either in person, by email, telephone, or voice mail. If unavailable, please send a message to clinton@clintonchildcare.com or goderich@clintonchildcare.com. If two weeks' notice is given, your account will not be charged. Daily fees, which are considered base fees, will be credited to your account if your child has been hospitalized for more than one day.

Refunds will be provided following either a parent's determination that they have made an overpayment in advance of care or the withdrawal of a child(ren) from care.

A parent can request a refund by contacting the Financial Administrator through a phone call or email with the address finance@clintonchildcare.com.

The refund will be provided by cheque and can take up to 10 business days from the date of the initial request.

Sick Fee Policy

If a child is sick, parents must send an email, mark the child absent in Lillio or call the childcare center. Parents are required to pay the day the child is deemed ill and for the following two days.

Closure of the Centre

The center will be closed on the following statutory holidays: New Year's Day, Family Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The center will be closed on Easter Monday and Christmas Eve. Families will not be charged for these days that the center is closed.

The center will be closed one day each year in October for ECE Appreciation Day. This day will be communicated in advance when information is provided on the date selected by Huron County. Children will not be scheduled for that day so there will be no charge for families.

The center will be closed annually in alignment with the Avon Maitland District School Board and Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board between Christmas and New Years. Children are not scheduled at this time and therefore, families will not be charged.

If the center is closed due to unforeseen circumstances, we will post on social media as well as on FM 101.7. When the center is closed due to unforeseen circumstances, your child's account will be credited for the day.

Arrival and Departure

When bringing your child to the Centre, please be sure to drop them off in the classroom with a teacher for safety reasons. The teachers are responsible for recording the arrival and departure times of the children in accordance with the Childcare and Early Years Act.

To ease departure issues, we recommend you develop a routine with your child such as giving a hug/kiss goodbye. Once you have said goodbye, it is best to leave quickly, instead of lingering around. If your child is upset you can pass the child to a staff member who will comfort your child and once they are settled, encourage them to play.

Please be sure the teacher is aware when you are leaving with your child at the end of their day. The teacher may communicate your child's development issues or general information at that time.

Procedures:

Accepting a child into care for all programs

1. When accepting a child into care at the time of drop-off, program staff in the room must:
 - greet the parent/guardian and child.
 - ask the parent/guardian how the child's evening/morning has been and if there are any changes to the child's pick-up procedure (i.e., someone other than the parent/guardian picking up).
2. Where the parent/guardian has indicated that someone other than the child's parent/guardians will be picking up, the staff must
 - confirm that the person is listed on the child's emergency file or where the individual is not listed, ask the parent/guardian to provide authorization for pick-up in writing (e.g., note or email).
 - sign the child in on the classroom attendance record.
 - document the change in pick-up procedure in the daily written record.

Where a child has not arrived in care for all programs as expected

1. Where a child does not arrive at the childcare centre and the parent/guardian has not communicated a change in drop-off (e.g., left a voice message or advised the closing staff at pick-up), the staff in the classroom must:
 - inform the Management staff if a child has not arrived by 10:00 am. The Management staff must send an email to the parent/guardian.
 - Once the child's absence has been confirmed, program staff shall document the child's absence on the attendance record and any additional information about the child's absence in the daily written record.

Where a child has not arrived in care at before school (Kids Zone, Kids Club and Kids Corner)

1. Where a child does not arrive at before school and the parent/guardian has not communicated a change in drop-off (e.g., left a voice message or advised the closing staff at pick-up), the staff must:
 - Communicate with the school that the child was not in attendance at before school.
 - Inform the Management staff that the child did not arrive at before school care. The Management staff must send an email to the parent/guardian.
2. Once the child's absence has been confirmed, the Management staff will document the child's absence on the attendance record and any additional information about the child's absence in the daily record.

Where a child has not arrived in care at the after-school program as expected

1. Where a child does not arrive at the after-school program and the parent/guardian has not communicated a change in pick up (e.g., left a voice message, sent an email or advised the closing staff at pick-up), the after-school program staff must:
 - communicate with the school to confirm whether the child was in attendance at school that day.
 - the program staff should notify the Management staff in the office of the child that attended school but did not arrive at the after-school program.
 - If the child is scheduled to be in care after school and the school released them otherwise (e.g., bus or walk home) and it has been confirmed that the child is to be in care after school, the program staff will inform the school who is responsible for contacting the bus to return the child to our care and the Management staff will continue to contact the parent/guardian to confirm the child's location.
 - Once the child's absence has been confirmed, program staff shall document the child's absence on the attendance record and any additional information about the child's absence in the daily written record.

Releasing a child from care for all programs

1. The staff who is supervising the child at the time of pick-up shall only release the child to the child's parent/guardian or individual that the parent/guardian has provided written authorization that the childcare may release the child to. Where the staff does not know the individual picking up the child (i.e., parent/guardian or authorized individual),
 - confirm with another staff member that the individual picking up is the child's parent/guardian/authorized individual.
 - where the above is not possible or the staff have not previously met the individual, they must ask the parent/guardian/authorized individual for photo identification and confirm the individual's information against the parent/guardian/authorized individual's name on the child's emergency file or written authorization.
2. In an emergency situation or sudden change in pick-up procedure where a parent/guardian does not have sufficient time to send a written email to the centre, the parent/guardian must call the child care center and speak to a staff to give verbal authorization for a child to be released to another individual. The individual will be required to provide photo identification at the time of pick-up.

Where a child has not been picked up as expected (before center closes) from all programs

1. Where a parent/guardian has previously communicated with the staff a specific time or timeframe that their child is to be picked up from care and the child has not been picked up the staff shall notify Management staff. We understand there may be unexpected events, however it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to notify the centre of a change in pick-up routines.

Where a child has not been picked up and the center is closed for all programs

1. Where a parent/guardian or authorized individual who was supposed to pick up a child from care and has not arrived by closing time. The staff will communicate with a second staff that the child has not been picked-up.
2. One staff shall stay with the child, while a second staff proceeds with calling the parent/guardian to advise that the child is still in care and requires pick-up. The staff will proceed to contact the parent/guardian or authorized individual who was responsible for picking up the child.
3. If the staff is unable to reach the parent/guardian or authorized individual who was responsible for picking up the child, the staff will contact the next parent/guardian or authorized individual listed on the child's emergency file.
4. Where the staff is unable to reach the parent/guardian or any other authorized individual listed on the child's emergency file by closing time, the staff shall proceed with contacting the local Children's Aid Society (CAS) at 1-800-271-5290. Staff must follow the CAS's direction with respect to next steps.

Dismissing a child from care without supervision

1. Staff will only release children from care to the parent/guardian or other authorized adult. Under no circumstances will children be released from care to walk home alone.

Additional Procedures:

Late Policy

- Parents must be aware of the importance of picking up their children on time at the end of each day. We understand that there may be isolated occasions when you cannot be here on time. However, it is expected that parents will notify the Executive Director or Supervisor if this should happen, so that staff are aware of the situation in advance.
- Parents who are late picking up their children will be given one written warning. If a second instance occurs, a non-base late fee of \$10.00 for each half hour will be charged and a written warning will be issued. This written warning will also include that if a third instance occurs that care for the family may be withdrawn depending on the circumstances.
- Parent/guardians may appeal this decision to the Board of Directors. Following the letter, parents may appeal with a written letter to the board@clintonchildcare.com

Health/Medication

Medication is only administered if it is prescribed by a doctor or is accompanied by a doctor's note. It must be in its original container with the child's name, start and finish date of the medication, date of purchase and expiration, name of medication, condition needing medication, dose, time to be given, if medication requires refrigeration, reactions to medication. The medication must be accompanied by a dispensing tool such as a syringe, cup or spoon, and must be clear to read, and match the dosage as prescribed. Every day that the medication is to be administered, the Parent or Guardian must sign our Medication Form, or the medication cannot be given to the child that day. After signing the form, please give the medication to the Food Services Supervisor so it can be locked in the fridge or medicine cabinet in the kitchen.

With written authorization, Educators are permitted to administer the following over-the-counter products to children, sunscreen, moisturizing skin lotion, lip balm, insect repellent, hand sanitizer, and diaper cream. These products must be clearly labelled with the child's name, stored in accordance with the instructions for storage on the label, and administered from the original container/package in accordance with the instructions on the label and the parent's written authorization.

If your child has a communicable disease such as hand foot and mouth disease, please inform us and we will help you decide on a return date. The Centre must report any incidence of disease to the Health Unit and the families within the center, so it is important that you notify us. If your child has a fever of 38° Celsius or 100.4° Fahrenheit or is suffering from vomiting and/or diarrhea they must be kept at home.

Huron Perth Public Health recommends that a child with a fever can return once they have been fever free without medication for 24 hours; 48 hours for gastrointestinal (vomiting and diarrhea). On the same note, if your child is unable to participate fully in the program due to illness, it is recommended that they do not attend the childcare center.

The staff will notify parents when their child has been exposed to, or is suffering from a communicable disease or illness, with recommendations to contact their family physician. Moderately ill children, or children who become ill during care, will be removed from contact with the children. The Educators will monitor a child with a low-grade temperature less than 38°C or 100.4°F, and document this on the Child Illness Documentation form. The child will be monitored every half hour. If the child's fever reaches a temperature of 38°C or 100.4°F or higher the parent(s) will be called immediately.

The Executive Director/Supervisor will contact the parent if the child:

1. Has a fever or unexplained rash.
2. Has more than 2 loose bowel movements in a day.
3. Is unable to function normally at the Centre due to illness, such as a severe cold, cough, stomach flu.
4. Is infected with a communicable illness such as measles, chicken pox.
5. Is infected with a contagious condition such as head lice, scabies

If a parent cannot be reached after exhausting all of their contact numbers, the emergency contact(s) will be called, after a 15 minute time frame, to allow parents time to receive and return the Centre's messages. This is a guideline only, and the time frame may be shortened due to the seriousness and uniqueness of each situation. If an illness becomes more serious, the time frame will be shortened and phone calls escalated, and in extreme cases 911 will be called.

Parents may be requested to have a doctor's note completed when their child returns to care, following a communicable illness.

Nutrition

We provide two nutritious snacks and one hot meal every full day of childcare. The Nutrition Specialist follows the Canadian Food Guide and Nutrition for Healthy Term Infants, as outlined by the Childcare and Early Years Act when planning the menus. The menus are changed seasonally and are posted for two weeks in advance; if there are changes, they will be posted on the day of the changes. Water is always available for the children throughout the day. The School age programs will offer two nutritious snacks for children, one before school and one after school.

Anaphylactic Policy

Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Anaphylactic Allergens

To reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents, Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre is nut free. It is essential that all families and Educators follow these guidelines.

- If your child eats a nut product before attending childcare, please wash their face and brush their teeth before bringing them into the centre.
- Treats for special occasions will not be allowed to be brought into the centre. If you would like to bring something in for your child to share with their friends, please bring in a non-food item such as stickers, pencils, or bubbles. Please do not feel obligated.
- We understand that mornings can be busy, but we cannot allow a child to bring their breakfast into the childcare centre to finish. If your child arrives hungry, please let a staff know and we will ensure they have something to eat.

- Morning and afternoon snacks are offered at our before and after school programs. If your child prefers a snack from their lunch, then all items in their lunch must be nut-free and labelled with the child's name.
- Infants who need to bring in their own food as per our Infant Room Policies, or require a special diet are able to do so in consultation with the Infant Room staff and/or Executive Director/Supervisor. All items must be nut free and clearly labelled.
- Children in Toddler and Preschool programs may only bring in food items if they have a special diet and/or dietary restrictions. This may only be done after consultation with the Executive Director. All food items need to be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Children attending our Full Day JK/SK and School Age Programs, are required to bring their own lunch. This must be nut free and clearly labelled with the child's name. If a lunch is forgotten, the Nutrition Specialist will provide food for the child. If a child's lunch does not meet nutritional requirements, then it shall be supplemented by the childcare centre. Snacks will be provided.
- If a child brings in an item that is not nut free, the item will be removed from the classroom, stored in a zip-lock bag in the office and returned to the parent upon pick up with a reminder to the parent that we are a nut free centre. The childcare care centre will supplement the child's lunch if required.
- Proper hand hygiene will be followed prior to eating.
- Bee allergies are also a concern; for this reason, the yard will be checked for bees regularly with hives removed as needed.
- Educators will not use materials in their classrooms which may have been in contact with peanuts, and egg cartons are not used.

Communication Plan

It is extremely important that children with life-threatening allergies do not come into contact with their allergen. For some people, if they eat, touch, or even come into contact with anything that has been in contact with their allergen could be life-threatening.

In our registration package, we ask if the child has any allergies, what they are allergic to, and what their reaction to the allergen is.

When a child registers who has an allergy, the Allergy List is updated with anaphylactic allergies written in red. An allergy list is posted in the office, kitchen, all program rooms as well as in each program binder, which is kept with staff when outside or offsite.

The Nutrition Specialist is notified of any allergies and made aware of updates to the Allergy List.

Information regarding our Anaphylactic Policy will be included in our parent handbook.

A sign is posted at the entrance that the Centre is a nut free environment.

Training

All staff are required to have current First Aid training and will receive Epi-Pen training at this time.

An Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan containing information about the child's allergy, the child's picture, the Procedure to follow in case of an allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) and a poster showing, "How to use the Epi-Pen-Three Simple Steps" will be posted in the office, kitchen, and all program rooms. A copy of these can be found at the end of this policy.

Monthly emergency drills will be conducted. Emergency numbers will be available in all classrooms and posted in the office and staff room.

Before staff begin working at CCCC, they are required to review all Policies and Procedures, including the Anaphylactic Policy, and sign off on them. They also review all Emergency Plans for any children with anaphylactic allergies and sign off on those as well. All staff review the Policies and Procedures and Emergency Plans annually, if there are changes, and when new children register.

Procedure for Managing Anaphylaxis (an allergic reaction that may become fatal)

1. Recognize symptoms and react quickly.
2. Use Epi-Pen and liquid antihistamine.
3. Call an Ambulance. Explain that you have a child with anaphylaxis.
4. Administer the second Epi-Pen with the child's symptoms continue or if the ambulance is unable to arrive quickly.

5. The child's teacher will go to the hospital with the child, taking the child's file and the second Epi-Pen (if not yet administered).
6. During these procedures another staff will telephone the child's parents and inform the Executive Director/Supervisor.
7. The teacher will stay at the hospital with the child until the child's parents arrive.
8. The Executive Director will report the Serious Occurrence to the Ministry of Education.
9. During the emergency, ensure the supervision of the other children in the Childcare Centre.

Development of Individualized Plans and Emergency Procedures for Each Child with an Anaphylactic Allergy who Receives Childcare

If a child registers with, or develops an anaphylactic allergy while attending the centre, administration will immediately request information from the parent. This information will include, but may not be limited to, the steps to reduce the risk of causing or worsening the allergen, list of medical devices with expiry date and how to use them, location of medication, signs and symptoms, and emergency contact information.

This information will be put into an Individualized Plan for a Child with Medical Needs. A copy of this form can be found at the end of this policy. This plan will be completed in consultation with the parent, and medical professionals as required. Once complete, the parent and administration will sign the form, and have all staff review and sign off that they have reviewed the child's plan. An Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan with the child's picture will be completed and posted in the kitchen, office and each classroom.

Outside Play

Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre will ensure that children have outdoor time each day. The Childcare and Early Years Act requires the children to be outside for 2 hours daily, weather permitting. If your child is well enough to come to daycare, they will be engaging in outdoor experiences. Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and full-day school-age and JK/SK programs will spend approximately one hour outside in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. School-age and JK/SK programs that operate before and after school will have at least 30 minutes of outdoor time. Program staff will create a safe outdoor environment that supports children's gross motor development while also contributing to their overall growth and development.

The Leadership team and Program staff will regularly check weather reports to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and staff exploring the outdoor environment. Children can play outdoors in different types of weather if they are dressed appropriately, and modifications are made such as limited or shorter intervals outdoors or cancelled at the discretion of the program staff through communication with the Executive Director/Supervisor.

Sleep Policy

Staff in the infant and toddler sleep rooms are completing direct visual checks of sleeping children. Toddler staff complete checks every half hour. Infant staff complete checks every 15 minutes; the infant sleep policy is outlined further in this Parent Handbook. They are physically present and check for indicators of distress or unusual behaviour. These visual checks will be documented on the sleep chart located in the classrooms. Staff will ensure there is sufficient lighting in sleep room to conduct the direct visual checks.

At no time shall a child's head be covered with a blanket. If a child moves in their sleep, thus covering their head, an Educator shall uncover the child's head promptly.

Children in our programs are assigned individual cots labeled with their names, according to their schedules. Upon registration, sleep information is collected in the registration packages. Sleep arrangements are discussed as needed throughout the child's time at Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre.

Parents will be provided with information if their child is observed to have any significant changes in sleep patterns or behaviours during sleep. They will then discuss which adjustments will be required with regards to how the child will be supervised, and document these changes in the daily journal, and make those changes accordingly. There is a dry erase board located in each room. Educators document the children who are the room, what children are with Early Risers, and with what Educator.

The sleep policy does not apply to our School Age programs.

Smoke-Free Policy

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), exposure to nicotine and tobacco toxins is dangerous, especially for infants and children. Children exposed to second and third hand smoke toxins are at a higher risk of health issues, including SIDS, acute respiratory infections, ear infections, learning disabilities, behavioural problems, and asthma (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/>). CCCC recognizes the hazards to young children from the exposure to tobacco use. This policy covers the use of any tobacco. In this policy, tobacco is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, and any other smoking product; and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, spit less, snuff, in any form; including, but not limited to, non-FDA approved cessation nicotine products, digital/electronic nicotine delivery systems such as e-cigarettes, vapor products or anything that stimulates or can be constructed as being a smoking or smokeless tobacco product. Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre is a smoke free environment. CCCC is in accordance and follows the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, effective July 1, 2018. Tobacco use is prohibited on the property including the parking lot and outdoor play areas. All field trips, walks and outside activities will be tobacco free.

Serious Occurrences

Serious occurrences can sometimes take place, despite all the best precautions. Serious occurrence reporting is one of the many tools that provide licensed childcare programs with an effective means of monitoring the appropriateness and quality of service delivery. If a serious occurrence takes place within the center the policy states that the information will be posted so the parents have access to it. This post will give the parents information about the incident and outline follow-up actions taken and the outcomes, while respecting the privacy of all the individuals involved.

Field Trips

Walking excursions offer children a wide variety of learning experiences and engaging opportunities for children to learn, grow and connect with the world around them. As part of our program, we regularly use community resources surrounding our childcare center including but not limited to nature trails, parks, splash pads, libraries, local events and stores. The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre will ensure the health and safety of all children while participating in a walking excursion outside of the childcare center and within the community.

Along with exploring our local communities, we highly value the opportunity to bring outside individuals/or groups and learning experiences to our childcare center including but not limited to community partners, petting zoos, the imagination playground and local artists. Their expertise and diverse learning opportunities enrich our programs with engaging experiences that foster development and curiosity for all children within our childcare programs.

Sunscreen Policy

Outdoor play is important for a child's overall development including physical, cognitive, emotional, sensory and social development. The goal of the Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre is to ensure children are being protected from the elements of the environment while participating in outdoor learning activities.

The following policies are practiced by all Program staff, from mid-spring to mid-fall under the discretion of the Leadership Team while engaging in outdoor learning activities.

1. Sunscreen with an SPF#30 or higher is applied for outside time. It is applied 20 minutes before exposure to sun whenever possible and reapplied every two hours. Program staff will communicate with parents regarding the brand of sunscreen we are using.
2. Parents/and guardians will apply sunscreen to their children in the morning before arriving at childcare especially when morning drop-off is outdoors. Program staff will reapply sunscreen as needed and apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to outdoor play.
3. The Centre will supply sunscreen for children in our Infant, Toddler and Preschool programs. If parents wish to supply their own sunscreen this will be signed off in the registration package at the time of enrollment and give permission if the child is able to use our sunscreen if needed.
4. Parents of JK/SK and School Age Children must supply their own sunscreen. The Centre will provide sunscreen for any child if needed. If a parent does not want their child to wear sunscreen, this will be signed off in the registration package.

3. Each child will be encouraged to wear a sun hat. If a child does not have their own hat, the Program staff may offer a hat for the child to wear if they choose. All childcare hats will be washed at the end of the day.
4. Program staff are to be aware of outdoor temperatures and humidity levels through communication with the Leadership team, Weather Channel APP on their iPad and any recommendations provided by Huron Perth Public Health.
5. Water experiences, shade and children's water bottles are available during outdoor exploration. On walking excursions Program staff will ensure children have drinking water, and opportunities for a break if necessary.
6. Program staff will teach children the importance of sun awareness.

Supervision Policy for Volunteers and Students

The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre welcomes both placement students and volunteers into our programs offered at our childcare center. We believe it is a valuable part in gaining experience within a childcare environment. Volunteers and students also play an important role in supporting the safety and well-being of children in the daily operations of childcare programs.

The Supervision of Students and Volunteers policy will provide supervising staff, students, and volunteers with a clear understanding of their individual roles and responsibilities.

All students and volunteers will complete any necessary paperwork including a confidentiality form, provide a copy of their immunizations, and obtain a vulnerable sector check before beginning at the childcare center. All students and volunteers will read the centers Policies and Procedures, individual plans and be trained on emergency plans for children with anaphylaxis. These required readings and paperwork will be reviewed annually with the Executive Director as a minimum.

All students and volunteers at the Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre will always be supervised by an Employee, must be over the age of 18 years of age and is never permitted to be alone with any child or group of children who receive childcare. Volunteers and students will not be counted in staff to child ratios. Students and volunteers will assist Educators in their programming, are encouraged to create relationships with the children and make connections in the hope that the children will learn from and share positive experiences with our students and volunteers.

Guiding Children's Behaviours

Any discipline situations shall be handled in a positive and consistent manner and be appropriate to the developmental level of the child. Developmental techniques shall be implemented as soon as possible after the behaviours and be designed to assist the child in learning appropriate behaviour. Children should be taught that angry or frustrating feelings are okay and how to deal with these feelings in a socially acceptable manner. Staff will handle disciplinary situations using positive reinforcement and language, praise and by redirecting the child to more appropriate behaviours or activities. Time outs will not be used.

Prohibited Practices Include:

- a) corporal punishment of the child;
- b) physical restraint of the child, such as confining the child for the purposes of discipline or in lieu of supervision, unless the physical restraint is for the purpose of preventing a child from hurting themselves, or others, and is only used as a last resort and only until the risk of injury is no longer imminent;
- c) locking the exits of the child care centre premises for the purposes of confining the child in an area or room without adult supervision, unless such confinement occurs during an emergency and is required as part of the licensee's emergency management policies and procedures;
- d) use of harsh or degrading measures or threats or use of derogatory language directed at or used in the presence of a child that would humiliate, shame or frighten the child or undermine their self-respect, dignity or self-worth;
- e) depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing or bedding;
- f) inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will.

Parent Issues and Concerns Policy and Procedures

The intent of this policy is to provide a clear process for parents/guardians, the childcare centre, and staff to use when parents/guardians bring forward issues/concerns.

Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre encourages parents/guardians to take an active role in our Centre, and to regularly discuss what their child(ren) are experiencing within our program with both their children and staff. As shown by our program statement, we support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents/guardians, childcare providers and staff, and foster ongoing communication with families about the program and their children. Our staff are available to engage parents/guardians in conversations and to support a positive experience during every interaction.

All issues/concerns raised by parents/guardians are taken seriously by Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre and will be addressed. Every effort will be made to address and resolve issues and concerns to the satisfaction of all parties and as quickly as possible.

Whenever possible, the staff at Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre will do their best to listen to parent/guardian concerns. If a parent brings a concern to a staff member who is in program, the Educator will help if possible, and then report to the Executive Director/Supervisor. If that staff member is too busy with the children, then he/she will refer the parent to the Executive Director/Supervisor.

Issues/concerns may be brought forward verbally or in writing. Responses and outcomes will be provided verbally, or in writing. The level of detail provided to the parent/guardian will respect and maintain the confidentiality of all parties involved. Every issue and concern will be treated confidentially, and every effort will be made to protect the privacy of the parents/guardians, children, staff, students and volunteers, except when the information must be disclosed for legal reasons (ie Ministry of Education, College of Early Childhood Educators, Law Enforcement Authorities or Children's Aid Society).

An initial response to an issue or concern will be provided to parents/guardians within 3 business days. The person who raised the issue/concern will be kept informed throughout the resolution process. Investigations of issues/concerns will be fair, impartial and respectful to parties involved. If necessary, the issue/concern will be brought to our Board of Directors.

Conduct: Our centre maintains high standards for positive interaction, communication and role-modeling for children. Harassment and discrimination will therefore not be tolerated from any party.

If at any point a parent/guardian, provider or staff feels uncomfortable, threatened, abused or belittled, they may immediately end the conversation and report the situation to the Executive Director.

If a parent becomes angry due to a concern about their child's care the procedure outlined below will be followed:

*The parent is directed to speak to the Executive Director/Supervisor. Program staff will politely explain they need to care for the children by the Executive Director/Supervisor will listen to their concern. The Executive Director/Supervisor will ask the parent to meet with him/her in the office. After listening to the concern, the Executive Director/Supervisor will explain the appropriate procedure to take if the parent should have further concerns.

*If there is a second time the parent behaves in a confrontational manner with the staff, the parent will receive a letter from the Board of Directors stating that if it should happen a third time their child will be removed from the program.

*Following the letter, parents who wish to do so may appeal the decision to the Board of Directors.

Concerns about Suspected Abuse or Neglect of a Child: Everyone, including members of the public and professionals who work closely with children, is required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.

If a parent/guardian expresses concerns that a child is being abused or neglected, the parent will be advised to contact the local Children's Aid Society directly.

Persons who become aware of such concerns are also responsible for reporting this information to CAS as per the "Duty to Report" requirement under the *Child and Family Services Act*.

Escalation of Issues or Concerns: Where parents/guardians are not satisfied with the response or outcome of an issue or concern, they may escalate the issue or concern in writing to either the Executive Director or The Board of Directors.

Procedures:

Nature of Issue/Concern	Steps for Parent/Guardian to Report Issue/Concern	Steps for Staff and/or Executive Director in Responding to Issue/Concern
Classrooms-Related Eg-schedule, sleep, toileting, food...	Raise the issue or concern to *the classroom staff directly OR *the Executive Director/Supervisor	*address the issue/concern at the time it is raised OR *have the Executive Director/Supervisor contact the parent/guardian OR
General Centre Operations-Related Eg-fees, hours of operation, staffing, wait list, menus...	Raise the issue or concern to *the Executive Director/Supervisor	*arrange for a meeting with the parent/guardian within 5 business days if requested Document the issues/concerns in detail.
Staff, Supervisor, Executive Director-Related	Raise the issue or concern to *the individual directly OR *the Executive Director/Supervisor All issues/concerns about the conduct of staff, volunteers, etc. that puts a child's health, safety and well-being at risk should be reported to the ED/Supervisor as soon as parents/guardians become aware of the situation.	Documentation should include: *date and time the issue/concern was received *the name of the person who received the issue/concern *the name of the person reporting the issue/concern *the details of the issue/concern *any steps taken to resolve the issue/concern and/or information given to the parent/guardian regarding next steps or referral.
Student/Volunteer-Related	Raise the issue or concern to *the staff responsible for supervising the volunteer or student OR *the Executive Director/Supervisor All issues/concerns about the conduct of students, volunteers that puts a child's health, safety and well-being at risk should be reported to the ED/Supervisor as soon as parents/ guardians become aware of the situation.	Provide contact information for the appropriate person if the person being notified is unable to address the matter. Ensure the investigation of the issue/concern is initiated by the appropriate party within 3 days or as reasonably possible thereafter. Document reasons for delays in writing. Provide a resolution or outcome to the parent(s)/guardian who raised the issue/concern.

Infant Room Policies

Bottles

Written "feeding instructions" are required for all infants in the program, therefore all parents are required to complete the Infant Program Information form upon registration. This form can be found at the end of this policy.

Formula bottles will be supplied from the child's home. Bottles must be labelled with the child's name and be delivered to the infant room staff upon arrival.

Homo milk is provided by the Childcare Centre for those infants drinking homo milk on a regular basis at home. For those infants drinking homo milk, empty bottles are supplied by the parents and brought to the daycare on a daily basis. Sippy cups are supplied by the centre, however parents may wish to bring their own cup from home, especially if their child is used to a certain type of cup. Again, these bottles and cups must be labelled.

Dirty bottles and sippy cups from home will be rinsed and placed in the child's bucket to be taken home each day.

Preparation and heating of bottles will take place in the infant room, away from the diapering and play areas. Staff will heat bottles either with a bottle warmer or by first heating up some water in a container and placing the bottle into that hot water. Another method of heating up formula, breast milk, or homo milk is by heating the liquid in a glass container in the microwave and transferring the liquid to a bottle. This practice is to avoid heating up substances in plastic containers in a microwave. Staff will test all bottles after heating to ensure that they are not too hot.

If a child is given a bottle on their own to hold, the child's head must be raised to reduce fluid in ears that causes ear infections.

Food

Baby food, including baby cereal, will be supplied by the parents. All food containers must be labeled with the child's name and be delivered to the infant room staff upon arrival. Containers requiring refrigeration will be placed in the infant room fridge. All other containers will be stored in the food cupboard in the infant room. Food preparation and heating will be done in the infant room away from diapering and play areas. Baby food will be heated in the microwave in a glass container and then transferred to a baby dish prior to feeding. Again, this practice is to avoid heating substances in a microwave in any plastic container. Staff will test the temperature of all foods after heating to ensure that the food is not too hot.

Dirty food containers from home will be rinsed and placed in the child's bucket to be taken home each night.

Once an infant is on solid foods at home, food will be supplied by the Childcare Centre. Parents will need to complete the Infant Food List at this time. This checklist can be found at the end of this policy. Menus will be posted and food preparation will be done in the childcare kitchen. Children in the infant room will not be served oranges, honey or chocolate. Any "new foods" will not be introduced at daycare.

All Food brought from home must be NUT Free. For more detail, please refer to Anaphylactic Policy-Notice Regarding our Nut Free Environment in our Parent Handbook.

Diapering

Diapers and creams will be provided by the parents. Each child will have their own buckets in the diaper changing area in which to store diapers and creams. When a child is getting low on diapers at the Childcare Centre, the parents will be notified to bring in more. All diapering will take place on the change table, away from all food preparation and play areas. The change table will be disinfected and both the child and staff's hands will be washed after each diaper change. A copy of the diapering procedure is posted in the changing area.

Infant Sleep Policy

Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre will ensure that children under 12 months old are placed for sleep in a manner consistent with the recommendations set out in the Joint Statement of Safe Sleep, unless a child's physician recommends otherwise in writing. Parents will be advised of our obligation to place children under 12 months old on their back to sleep, as per the Joint Statement of Sleep.

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hp-ps/dca-dea/stages-etapes/childhood-enfance_0-2/sids/jsss-ecss-eng.php

Infants will be assigned individual cribs labeled with their names, according to their schedule.

At no time shall a child's head be covered with a blanket. If a child moves in their sleep thus covering their head, an Educator shall uncover the child's head promptly.

In the infant sleep room, physical checks will be documented. Staff will physically stand next to each crib or cot, and place their hand on the child to feel them breathing, and will also check for indicators of distress or unusual behaviour.

These checks will be performed every 15 minutes, and documented by the educator completing the check by placing their initials on the sleep chart outside of sleep room, and adding comments when necessary. A copy of this sleep chart is located at the end of this policy, in our Policies and Procedures Manual.

The child's sleep will be recorded on their daily notes, as well as the time of the sleep room checks.

Staff will ensure there is sufficient lighting in sleep room to conduct the visual checks.

If there is a change to a child's sleep routine, the Educators will have a discussion with the parents/guardians, and have them sign off on that change. For example, when an infant is moving up to the toddler room and they begin to sleep on a cot. A copy of this letter is located at the end of this policy, in our Policies and Procedures Manual.

An Electronic Sleep Monitor is used in the infant room to assist staff when a child wakes up. It does not replace the direct physical checks performed by the educators. It is checked daily by the infant staff to ensure it is in working order. If the monitor is not working, staff will ensure all educators in the room are aware that it is not working. A Supervisor will be notified, a verbal plan will be established with regards to purchasing a new one, and this will be documented in the daily journal.

There is a chalk board located on the refrigerator where Educators document which children are present. It identifies which children are awake and which children are sleeping.

At no time will an infant be placed in a crib with a bottle, even if a parent has requested it.

Infants will not be placed in a crib wearing a bib.

Bumper pads will not be used in the cribs.

Laundry

Crib sheets are supplied by the Childcare Centre and will be washed:

- a) once a week for full time children's
- b) daily for part time children's
- c) as needed.

Parents may supply their child's own blanket from home for naps. These blankets will also be washed once a week, or as needed.

Toy Washing

Toy washing for the Infant Room will be done on a daily basis, and more often as needed.

Immunizations

As an infant's immunization is updated, the Childcare Centre must be aware of these updates so that they can be added to the child's file. Parents are required to update Huron Perth Public Health using the following link;

<https://www.hp-ph.ca/en/health-matters/immunization-records-and-reporting.aspx> .

Fire Alarm

When the fire alarm sounds:

- 1) one staff will get compact crib from the sleep room
- 2) all infants will be placed in the crib
- 3) ensure all infants are accounted for
- 4) check sleep room and washroom, turn out the lights and take emergency binder
- 5) leave building through the emergency exit (main daycare doors) and proceed to grassy area next to preschool playground.

Fire Drills will be performed on a monthly basis.

Revised May 2018
Revised April 2021

SCHOOL AGE SAFE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

1. Definition of unsafe child behaviour

- a. When a child is consistently having difficulty following the rules and regulations set out by the Childcare Centre, and their actions impact the safety of others at the Centre.
- b. When a child engages in actual or attempted destruction of property including but not limited to Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre locations and shared spaces.
- c. When a child inflicts physical, emotional, or psychological harm to another child or employee.
- d. When a child engages in sexual molestation or exploitation towards another child or employee.

2. Educator Supportive Responses & Outcomes

When supporting children who have engaged in unsafe behaviours, it is important to remember that consequences must be firm and fair and not intended to humiliate or shame the child(ren). It is the responsibility of Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre Educators to investigate situations as thoroughly as possible and respond to them as consistently as possible.

See **Safe Behaviour Policy Appendix A** for a list of unsafe behaviours and how they will be responded to.

3. Incidents Requiring Temporary Exclusion of a Child from the School Age Program

- a. When a member of the Leadership Team has deemed it necessary to remove a child from the program space, the child will be invited to join a member of the Leadership Team in their office or another 'safe' room away from the other children. If there is not a second staff at the location, a call will be made for additional staff to provide support.
- b. A member of the Leadership Team will call the parent/guardian and ask them to pick up their child immediately. Upon arrival, the parent will be provided with an explanation of the child's unsafe behaviour. It will be explained to the parent that per the Safe Behaviour Policy and the Code of Conduct the child is not able to return until an investigation has taken place by the Executive Director. The parent/guardian will be informed that the Executive Director will be notified of the situation immediately.
- c. The Executive Director, Leadership Team and Resource Consultant will meet to discuss whether circumstances warrant the child being removed from the program temporarily or if the child could return the next day with supports in place.
- d. The Executive Director will contact the Chair of the Board of Directors to inform them of the incident, proposed resolution and plan moving forward. The Chair of the Board may provide additional recommendations as warranted.
- e. After a decision has been reached, the Executive Director will meet with the parent/guardian to inform them of the decision.

Note: Permanent removal of a child from the School Age Program should be considered as a last resort and should only be considered after all other support strategies have been implemented with consistency and fidelity in consultation with our Resource Consultant and The Board of Directors.

4. Role of Executive Director

The Executive Director will:

- a. Review the employee documentation and look to identify patterns and possible factors contributing to the unsafe behaviour.
- b. Consult the Leadership Team and discuss supports required for the child to be successful in their program.
- c. Organize the findings into a plan with the support of the Resource Consultant.
- d. Notify the Chair of the Board of findings.
- e. Share the recommendations with the parent(s) and the child in a team meeting with child's parents/guardian, the child, Resource Consultant, and Site Team.

The Executive Director should consult with the parents and recommend other community agencies if deemed necessary. An attempt should be made to pursue further assessments of the child if the acting out behaviour continues. Staff are obligated to report any suspicions of child abuse to the Children's Aid Society.

Code of Conduct

The Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre and its off-site locations have a Safe Behaviour Policy and a Code of Conduct to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all children and employees.

Please read the Code of Conduct with your child(ren) and talk about questions or concerns they may have. All children enrolled in our **School Age Programs** and a parent/guardian **MUST** sign this form to acknowledge that both the child(ren) and parent/guardian have reviewed and understand the policy.

Parents must also be aware of the **Safe Behaviour Policy Appendix A** to be familiar with how unsafe behaviours will be responded to.

Core Values

In our programs, we are guided by the following Core Values:

Respect

- An attitude of caring about others and treating them with kindness.
- Using positive tone of voice.
- Doing what is expected when asked.
- We need to treat other's belongings, the spaces we learn in, and the world around us with consideration.

Responsibility

- Being **responsible** means others can depend on us.
- We must be accountable for our own actions. When things go wrong and we make a mistake, we must take ownership for our actions, and plan to repair with peers and/or educators.
- If someone else is not being responsible, we control our own actions and we do what is expected.

Empathy

- We try to understand how others think and feel.
- We show concern for the feelings of others.
- We try to understand, even when we do not agree.

Honesty

- Being **honest** is telling the truth even when we have made mistakes and when we know someone might be angry or disappointed.

Expectations

All children, parents and staff have the right to be and feel safe while in our School Age Program. With this right comes responsibility to be accountable for our actions that put ourselves and/or others at risk. Our program must be free from abuse, bullying, discrimination, intimidation, hateful words, and violence in any form.

All children, parents are expected to follow the expectations listed below:

- a. Always use respectful and kind language and gestures.
- b. Children must follow the expectations given by and Educator even if they do not agree.

- c. Always walk behind the Educator who is at the front of the line and in front of the Educator at the end of the line when there are two or more educators walking with the group. Always use walking feet and stay with the group.
- d. Children must sit for snacks and lunch.
- e. Children must keep their hands and feet of to themselves and keep safe control of their body. No wrestling or play fighting, or body contact. When playing tag must use gentle touch. Tag is not permitted on the climbers.
- f. Children must tidy up the toys when they are done playing with them before going to play somewhere else.
- g. Children must play within the Educator's view.
- h. Washrooms – an Educator must know you are going to maintain mandatory visual, and younger children must be accompanied by an older child or Educator.
- i. Talk to an Educator if you feel frustrated. Educators will help children co-regulate using calming strategies and tools.
- j. Electronics are not permitted within our programs and must be left at home.

Definition of unsafe child behaviour

- a. When a child is consistently having difficulty following the rules and regulations of Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre, and their actions impact the safety of others at the Centre.
- b. When a child engages in actual or attempted destruction of property including but not limited to Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre locations and shared spaces.
- c. When a child inflicts physical, emotional, or psychological harm to another child or employee.
- d. When a child engages in sexual molestation or exploitation towards another child or employee.

See **Safe Behaviour Policy Appendix A** for a list of unsafe behaviours and how they will be responded to.

Code of Conduct and Safe Behaviour Policy Agreement

We have read and understand the Code of Conduct and Safe Behaviour Policy of Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre.

As Parent/Guardian I _____ am aware of the **Safe Behaviour Policy Appendix A and understand** how unsafe behaviours will be responded to by Clinton Co-operative Childcare Centre Staff.

Child Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Supervisor Name: _____

Executive Director Name: _____

Date: _____

Appendix A: Action Outcomes & Supportive Responses

Level 1 - Ongoing daily behaviours that children engage in		
Examples of Unsafe Behaviour	Educator Supportive Response	Staff Follow Up
Child repeatedly not following program expectations as communicated by Educators, or as listed in the program space or Safe Behaviour Policy.	Educator will utilize their Circle of Security and Behaviour Management Systems Training to support child(ren). This could include the following supportive responses:	Educator will assist child with any repair they want to make. This could include clean up and/or an apology if the child wants to give one.
Rough play, tossing item that could harm to self or others.	Request the child join them in a quiet area to problem solve what is happening and talk about why the child is having difficulty following the program expectations.	Educator will let teacher or parent/guardian picking up know that the child required help problem solving but was able to work through it.
Unsafe use of equipment and/or toys that could cause harm to self or others.	Give child time to think or calm down, if needed, before having the conversation.	Educator will let Supervisor know that the child had difficulty in program and record any pertinent information in the daily journal and on Appendix B if there has been an increase in unsafe behaviours.
	Stay in close proximity with the child to assist with co-regulation.	
	Ask child open ended questions during problem solving to help them identify the problem and possible solutions.	
	Allow child to walk or engage in an activity with an Educator.	

Level 2 - Child is likely to return to program with supports that are easily implemented by staff

Examples of Unsafe Behaviour	Educator Supportive Response	Staff Follow Up
Child exhibiting disrespectful attitude, not following program expectations, and having frequent problems with peers that affects the safety of children and employees for more than 4 sessions in program. (A child that attends both before and after school in a single day would be considered 2 sessions).	Educator will utilize their Circle of Security and Behaviour Management Systems Training to support child(ren) by implementing strategies listed in Level 1.	Site Supervisor will notify parent/guardian and request immediate pick up.
A single event that affects the safety and well-being of other children or employees that requires medical attention or supervisor support.	Site Supervisor will be contacted to come to the area and support in program while Educator supports the children involved. Site Supervisor may also assist with de-escalation/co-regulation and First Aid if needed.	Educator will complete Appendix B and email to Site Supervisor and Executive Director before clocking out. After the child has been picked up, the Executive Director will meet with the Site Team to gather information. The Executive Director will schedule a Code of Conduct meeting with the Child, Parent, Resource Consultant and Site Team to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the Code of Conduct and Safe Behaviour Policy • discuss what happened/has been happening. • plan how to move forward to ensure safety in the School Age Program.
		Child to return to School Age Program when adequate supports are in place.

If unsafe behaviour occurs at a Before School program, a member of the Leadership Team may call the parent for immediate pick up OR choose to release the child to the school, ensuring the Principal and Classroom Teacher are aware of the incident.

If unsafe behaviour occurs during a full day program or at an After School program, a member of the Leadership Team will call the parent for immediate pick up.

Level 3- we are no longer able to maintain safety in program without additional supports in place.

Examples of Unsafe Behaviour	Educator Supportive Response	Staff Follow Up
Frequently engaging in actions that place the children and employees in unsafe situations which affect their safety and well-being. Including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swearing Bullying Discrimination Physically and/or emotionally hurting people Attempted or actual destruction of property <p>A situation requiring outside community partner support – Paramedics, Fire or Police to support the situation.</p>	Employees on site will ensure that all children are safe and a visual will be maintained on the child who is escalated.	Site Supervisor and Executive Director will be notified immediately to provide support.
	Child will be temporarily removed from program until required supports are in place	Site Supervisor will contact parent/guardian for immediate pick up. Program Employees should not be contacting parents/guardians.
		All staff involved in the incident MUST complete Appendix B and email copy to Site Supervisor and Executive Director prior to clocking out.
		After the child has been picked up, the Executive Director will meet with the Site Team to gather information.
		The Executive Director will schedule a Code of Conduct meeting with the Child, Parent, Resource Consultant and Site Team to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review the Code of Conduct and Safe Behaviour Policy discuss what happened/has been happening. plan how to move forward to ensure safety in the School Age Program. <p>Child will not be able to return to program until a full investigation by the Executive Director has taken place.</p>

Note: Children's mitigating factors will be identified when considering exclusion from program. Children will be excluded from programs as an absolute last resort.