

Riverside Park Nursery School ~ Program of Andrew Fleck Children's Services

Located in the Riverside United Church
3191 Riverside Drive, Ottawa ON K1V 8N8
613-738-0305
pyoung@afchildrensservices.ca



Welcome to our e-Tour !

Riverside Park Nursery School traditionally held Open House Days to showcase our wonderful program. To adhere to Covid safe protocols, we developed this power point which will provide you with:

- Overview of our programs, fees and daily schedules
- Our healthy environment practices
- An introduction to our experienced staff
- Our curriculum
- How to register for the September 2021 to June 2022 school year
- Testimonials from RPNS families

RPNS Programs

We have three classroom groups:

Toddler Class ~ for children aged 18 months to 2.5 years

Senior Preschool Class (with French Introduction) ~ for children aged 2.5 years to 5 years

Forest School Class ~ for children aged 3.5 years to under 6 years of age

Summer Camp Program ~ for children aged 2.0 years to 6 years of age

Toddler Classroom





Preschool Classroom





Preschool Room activity centres



Forest School Class





Program Hours

- ❖ Weekdays from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm (noon) is considered our Core Day
- ❖ We provided Extended Day options at additional fees from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm
- ❖ School year starts in September the day after Labour Day and finishes up the third week in June.
- ❖ We close for two weeks at the Christmas Break and for one week at the March Break. Also closed for statutory holidays.
- ❖ Summer Camp starts the last week of June and finishes the second week of August

Program Days

Families have the option of enrolling their children for the following days:

- 2 Days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- 3 Days per week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)
- 5 Days per week (Mondays to Fridays)

Our Summer Camp Program is Mondays to Fridays only.

Program Fees *(2020-2021 school year rates)*

Subsidies spaces are available in all our programs. Visit this link for information on child care subsidies:
<https://ottawa.ca/en/family-and-social-services/childrens-services/get-help-your-child-care-costs>

Program ~ DAILY FEES	Core Day - 3.5 hours	Extended Day - 4 Hours	Extended Day - 4.5 Hours
2 Day - Toddler	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$50.00
3 Day - Toddler	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00
5 Day - Toddler	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00
2 Day - Preschool / French Introduction Preschool	\$38.00	\$43.00	\$48.00
3 Day - Preschool / French Introduction Preschool	\$34.00	\$39.00	\$44.00
5 Day - Preschool / French Introduction Preschool	\$34.00	\$39.00	\$44.00

Playground ~ We play outdoors everyday!







DAILY SCHEDULE FOR TODDLERS

8:30 am ~ arrival, screening and outdoor play (parents do not enter building so leave backpacks outside with child)

9:30 am ~ inside for change to indoor shoes; toileting/diapering and handwashing

9:50 am ~ Snack Time

10:15 am ~ free play

11:30 am ~ Circle time

11:45 am ~ preparation for home time (parents wait outside and child is brought to them)

DAILY SCHEDULE FOR SENIOR PRESCHOOL with FRENCH INTRODUCTION

8:30 am ~ arrival, screening and children brought in by staff
(parents do not enter building)

8:30 am ~ free play in Senior Preschool room

9:20 am ~ toileting for Group 1 and handwashing

9:30 am ~ toileting for Group 2 and handwashing

9:50 am ~ Snack Time

10:10 am ~ Circle Time

10:30 am ~ Outdoor play in play yard

11:55 am ~ preparation for home time; gather backpacks (parents
pick up child from play yard)

DAILY SCHEDULE FOR FOREST SCHOOL CLASS

8:30 am ~ arrival, screening and Forest School explorations
(parents bring children directly to the forest)

10:00 am ~ inside for toileting and handwashing

10:10 am ~ Snack Time

10:30 am ~ Circle time

11:00 am ~ return to forest for free play

11:55 am ~ preparation for home time (parents pick up child at forest)

Maintaining a healthy environment during a pandemic!

As a program of Andrew Fleck Children's Services, we strictly follow our Pandemic Plan Procedures & Protocols. Staff have also received training in Covid 19 best practices.

To ensure that we maintain a healthy environment, we:

- Allow only the staff and children to enter the building
- Ask parents Covid screening questions at drop off time and take the temperature of each child. Staff are also screened.
- Have the staff wear face masks and visors at all times
- Keep children and staff in their cohort groups
- Disinfect highly touched surfaces throughout the morning

Healthy Environment Practices....continued

- Disinfect toilets and sinks in washroom after each cohort group
- Disinfect toys and equipment daily
- Open classroom windows
- Isolate symptomatic children from their group
- Have as much outdoor programming as possible
- Maintain open lines of communication in regards to Covid 19 updates

Screening Table

All staff and children are screened to check for Covid symptoms and touchless temperatures are taken.

Parents may also be provided with online Screening tools to complete prior to dropping off their children at the nursery school.



Pandemic Plan for Parents

To obtain the most recently updated AFCS Pandemic Plan for Parents, kindly contact the Program Coordinator, Paulette Young. She will send you an electronic copy.

pyoung@afchildrensservices.ca

Masks & Face Shields ~ the province has mandated the use of disposable face masks and face shield for educators.



Here is Sally the Educator puppet wearing a face mask and face shield.

The mask will keep her from spreading germs to others.

The face shield will protect Sally from getting germs in her eyes.

At this point in time, children are not required to wear face masks at RPNS.

Meet the Staff of RPNS!

Lisa Belton, RECE, Group Care Director

Lisa has been with AFCS since 2006 in various roles. As a Group Care Director, our nursery school is one of six programs that she oversees. Lisa is here to support the staff, children and families of RPNS.



Program Coordinator (PC) and Designate

Paulette Young, RECE, PC

Paulette has been at RPNS since May 2006. She has worked in various roles during her 35 year career as an educator, home child care provider, playgroup coordinator, supervisor and Algonquin College instructor. Paulette's passions are nature based pedagogy and being outdoors.



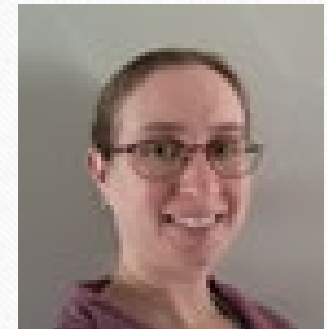
Tina Zandri, RECE, Designate

Tina joined RPNS in 2010 and has many years of experience working with different age groups of children. She received her Forest & Nature School Practitioner's Certification in 2020 and enjoys sharing outdoors experiences with the children.



RPNS Teaching Team!

Dulce Ibarra, RECE Virginia Lam, EA Lyn Bussey, EA Janet Clayton, ECE Stella Ness, RECE
Rena Kaplansky, EA Amber Galli, RECE



Curriculum

Children participate in activities both indoors and outdoors that promote many learning experiences in all developmental domains. The emergent curriculum is based on the early childhood “learning through play” philosophy and is supported by Ontario’s **ELECT** and **How Does Learning Happen** documents. The children’s learning is documented on the “Curriculum Board” in our hallway and educators use an electronic app to share observations, photos and videos with parents.

Emergent curriculum is a way of planning curriculum that is based on the children’s interest and passion at a certain point in time. Children thrive and learn best when their interests are captured. Learning occurs naturally.

How Does Learning Happen? Pedagogy is organized around four foundational conditions that are important for children to grow and flourish: **Belonging, Well-Being, Engagement, and Expression.**

- **Belonging** refers to a sense of connectedness to others, an individual's experiences of being valued, of forming relationships with others and making contributions as part of a group, a community, the natural world.
- **Well-being** addresses the importance of physical and mental health and wellness. It incorporates capacities such as self-care, sense of self, and self-regulation skills.
- **Engagement** suggests a state of being involved and focused. When children are able to explore the world around them with their natural curiosity and exuberance, they are fully engaged. Through this type of play and inquiry, they develop skills such as problem solving, creative thinking, and innovating, which are essential for learning and success in school and beyond.
- **Expression** or communication (to be heard, as well as to listen) may take many different forms. Through their bodies, words, and use of materials, children develop capacities for increasingly complex communication. Opportunities to explore materials support creativity, problem solving, and mathematical behaviours. Language-rich environments support growing communication skills, which are foundational for literacy.

How Does Learning Happen? in action!



This child is demonstrating the HDLH foundation of *Engagement*.

He is using innovative and problem solving skills to build a 'balance board' (as he named it) with the blocks and boards. These loose parts allow the child to create their own structures.

New to RPNS?

How to register for the September 2021 to June 2022 school year

1. Parents are requested to put their child's name on the City of Ottawa's **Child Care Registry & Waitlist** (CRAW). This is mandatory for families requiring a subsidy space. By selecting "AFCS ~ Riverside Park Nursery School" as one of your preferred choices, the Program Coordinator will be able to retrieve your contact information from CRAW.
2. The Program Coordinator will contact you to confirm your interest and which classroom is suited to your child. Parents confirm their intent to register by completing an online Jotform (link posted on our website) and paying a deposit. This deposit goes toward your first two weeks of care. Refund policy is provided on the Jotform.
3. Next, you will receive an invite (from afchildcare@elis.ca) to activate your Parent Portal on our Comsense Management System thus allowing you to complete the required registration information. Your child's immunization record can be uploaded onto the system, or provide a hard copy to the Program Coordinator.

Registration process....continued

4. The Program Coordinator will email you a Financial Package indicating the various payment typed options. The package needs to be completed and returned to the program at least 2 weeks prior to the child's start date.
5. Lastly, we will set up an opportunity for the family to meet with the child's educators. Currently as per Covid protocols, we are doing 'Meet & Greet' through Zoom calls. Hopefully we will be able to invite families to visit their child's classroom in the near future!
6. The first day of the nursery school year is Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Testimonials from RPNS families!

To say that we are thankful for Riverside Park Nursery School and the teachers and staff would be an understatement. Our 4y/o daughter was home with us for months during the lockdown, and by the summer time, she was really needing the interaction with other kids. We were not comfortable sending her to public school, so we were so thankful to hear that RPNS was going to be offering a Forest School program this year. We signed up right away and not only has she loved every minute of it, we were so grateful for the safe space where she can play and interact with other kids. The Pandemic Plan and protocols set in place have been amazing. We are very cautious about exposure as our daughter has asthma, but we feel completely safe and comfortable sending her to Forest School. The staff is very communicative and the community is wonderful. She has been learning so much through play and experience and having her needs met of interaction with other kids has been so good for her mental health. Thank you again to the staff and teachers at RPNS. We couldn't have gotten through this without you.

Liz and Thomas Bradley

We have had our children attending RPNS for several years now, and feel that our children have benefited greatly from attending the program. The staff are fantastic, they connect with children so well and always have positive attitudes and smiles on their faces. They keep the programming fresh and my kids have loved the different events that occur throughout the year.

This pandemic year has certainly looked different at RPNS, but given health protocols they have continued their high standard of providing important social activities for the children. They don't cut corners on their health protocols, whether it be screening questions at the beginning of the day, the extra cleaning they do, or the co-horting which they have established. There was certainly extra risk in sending our son to nursery school this year, but we firmly believe the benefit that he attains through having meaningful social interaction with other children far outweighs the extra health risk this year, and we knew that if anybody could do it safely it would be RPNS.

Geoff & Samantha Mertins

My son attended RPNS for 2 years prior to the start of the 2020/2021 school year. It was something he thoroughly enjoyed and as parents we knew he was well cared for by a fantastic staff team. We were worried about his transition to kindergarten, as he has medical needs that require extra support and monitoring. Then, when COVID-19 was clearly sticking around, we were even more uncertain. When the forest school program was offered for this year, we were overjoyed and had no hesitation enrolling him!

Yet again, it has been a great experience. We are so pleased our son has a few hours of learning, fun, outdoor play and socialization every day. The team is welcoming, positive, and has just adapted to the new situation and requirements. All health and safety protocols have been clearly explained; are consistently adhered to and never presented in a manner that was negative or anxiety provoking. Throughout the year, communication has been timely, accessible and transparent, adding to our comfort and confidence. Most importantly, my son comes home daily with a smile and tale of fun adventures. We are very thankful for such a great experience, through what would have otherwise been a very hard year.

Heather Carson