



Parkdale Sherwood Headstart

Monthly Newsletter

September 2020

Dear Headstart Families,

WELCOME! New friends and welcome back to our present friends.

I hope that all of you enjoyed your summer in spite of this pandemic. It has been a different time for all of us. We reopened on May 25th with a very limited number of children and have been increasing our numbers slowly and carefully as the CPHO allowed. We plan to be at our 100% capacity by the end of September so are still enrolling a few more children. We held off on securing spaces for families until we knew the rules for certain. As a result of that we are just completing our Fall Program planning.

Our entire staff are amazing. We/they are all very enthusiastic about our fall program and are excited about getting back to our larger groups of children and our new normal.

REGARDING STAFFING

We take great pride in our quality educators. We have a strong history of retaining and recruiting quality when staffing for our center.

I, **Carol Ford**, am continuing as the Center Manger. **Angela Sigsworth** is continuing as the Director of our Early Years Center. **Paula Kelly** is continuing as our faithful cook.

Our infant group, **The Baby Belugas**, have **Sharon Furness** as their educator.

Our **Busy Bees** have **Jessie Chaisson** and **Rudaina Abou Akel** as their primary educators. **Emma Dunphy** our Inclusion Specialist is in this group as well.

Our **Gummy Bears** have **Brenda Burhoe** and **Christina Seeley** as their primary educators.

Our **Doodle Bugs** have **Glenda Mallett** and **Sasha Clow** as their primary educators.

Jalisa MacLean, a recent ECE graduate, is staying with us full time and **Susan Clark** is continuing full time as well.

Claudia Swyer joins us each afternoon as well. They will support all of the groups throughout the day. Sasha will continue to screen all of you in in the mornings.

We have had lots of positive feedback regarding our newsletter and therefore will continue to issue them monthly as in the past. You can view them on our website, www.headstartpei.ca If you want a hard copy just let Angela know. We have an email address of headstartpei2013@gmail.com As usual please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email if you have any question. I cannot say this year that our door is always open as we are no longer allowed to let any and all of our parents in at all times. To be honest I find this a hard adjustment because one of our strong points was the interactions between our parents and staff. We do have to proceed following the rules to ensure the safety of all throughout these unprecedented times. I hope that someday we can return to the ways things were but I suspect that will not be for some time to come.

Remember when your child is enrolled at Headstart you are now a member of our Headstart family so, welcome to the family! We look forward to your participation and hope to see all of you at our AGM and Parent night on Thursday Oct. 8th at 7:00

We do realize for those of you who are continuing here from last year that family groupings are a change. With our new COVID-19 rules it is mandatory that we keep siblings together therefore we have to have mixed age groups. In past we have had our 2 year old group in the kitchen area, our 3 yr. olds in the middle area and our 4s or Pre-k group up front. We cannot have all of the 4 year olds up front. We cannot accommodate that. We do have permission to pull out our 4 year olds and run a Pre-K program for part of the day and will implement that once we get the groups all settled in. We have put all of the 4 year olds in the middle and upfront group because these two cohorts are in a bubble together that allows us to do that.

Our educators had to adjust to this change as well. A number of them took a course on mixed age groupings in August and were pleasantly surprised that the presenter really impressed upon them the value of this for our children. One thing she said was that "Early Childcare Education should be an extension of family and not a chronological approach to childcare".

So, we are choosing to embrace these new rules with enthusiasm and to continue to provide an excellent child care and education program for your children. To be honest Tuesday was very different for all of us but it is amazing only two days later and the groups are really settling in. September is always about meeting your new friends, adjusting to your new group ect.

I hope that you will support us through this change and as always please feel free to call myself or Angela at any time if you have questions. Thank you. Carol

Regarding your accounts,

I just want to clarify to everyone that the other staff members are not privy to information regarding your accounts. If you do have any questions please direct them only to me, personally, by note or phone or email. These measures are in place for your Privacy and Security and we appreciate your cooperation. We encourage everyone to use Direct Withdrawal but have made a couple of exceptions. Thanks Carol

REGISTERED CHARITY/UNITED WAY

Just a reminder: We are a registered charity therefore you can designate a contribution to us at any time. Also note when giving to United Way your donation can be earmarked for HEADSTART. Our registered Charity number is 0641803-20-02. Thanks

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

All of you for following the rules as we navigate through this New World.

To each and every one of our excellent staff for all of their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm as we navigate through this New World.

Enjoy your year with us at Headstart! Carol

Pick Up and Drop off

****I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping your time in the locker room as brief as possible, definitely no more than 5 minutes. We have been very fortunate that we have not had to assign times for pick up and drop off because parents have respected this.**

Drop off and Pick Up

~ As per CPHO requirements we are required to do a daily "screening" of all children and staff entering the centre. The screening consists of a list of questions around the symptoms of COVID and possible contacts outside the centre.

~ PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD HERE BY 9:30 IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. DUE TO CENTRE SCHEDULING THERE MAY NOT BE ANYONE TO SCREEN YOU AFTER THIS TIME AND THEREFORE YOU WOULD BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS DAY.

~ Families are welcome to come at the time that suits your schedule best, everyone will still be allotted a maximum of 5 minutes for screening purposes at drop off. Please be aware that we can only have one family in the locker room at a time during drop off and pick up unless you are from the same cohort so you may need to wait. If you are allowed in Sasha will let you know as she is our screening person.

~ Masks are encouraged in the locker room for parents if there is more than one parent from the same cohort.

~ To encourage social distancing we have placed at 2 meter intervals some tape outside the main doors. We will do our best to make this line move quickly and painlessly. Parents will be permitted in the locker room but not into the centre. Only infant parents are allowed in the center at this time. They are screened before entering. This could change again depending on the department's direction.

~ At pick up we ask that you enter the locker room and knock on the center door to get an educator's attention. They will then send your child to the door. Hopefully we will be outside most of the time so this will be a non-issue.

~Parents and siblings are not permitted inside the playgrounds. We will take your child to the gate. Please leave it closed until we bring your child to you.

~ CPHO recommends that one parent or guardian be assigned to pick up and drop off. If at all possible siblings are discouraged from entering the building.

~ Only infant parents will be permitted into the center if they wish to do so at drop off and pick up. They are required to screen in at the beginning and end of the day.

~ Parents are encouraged to social distance when in the parking lot.

~ Parents must sign their children in and out every day on top of completing the screening process. If there's an emergency evacuation of Headstart, a staff member will take the sign in/out book while leaving the center. This book is essential in an emergency to discern that all of our children are present. **Please adhere to this rule - your child's safety is our main concern.** The book is also used to determine staffing for early morning and late afternoon and as an attendance check.

Field Trips

Please be aware that if your child's group does go on a field trip there will be a permission slip that needs to be signed, or your child will not be able to go on the planned field trip. That being said if you do not want your child to go, we do make arrangements for that as well.

PARKING

We ask that parents respect the specified accessible parking spaces in front of the building. These spaces are wider to accommodate loading and unloading equipment/wheelchairs and facilitate children and adults with mobility needs coming into the building. Please be mindful of not obstructing the entry or exit of these spaces as well, i.e.: pulling up to the end of the walk to “run in for a minute.” It is a real source of frustration for families who rely on these spaces, from our program and others. Thank you.

~ The ramp inside the church is to be used only by those that require it. We do not allow the children to play on or run up and down it. This is a Park Royal Church and Headstart rule so we would appreciate your help in enforcing this rule.

Movie Day

Although we do not promote watching movies, the children think it is a big treat. Therefore the last Friday of the month, we designated as movie and pajama day at Headstart. The movie is approved by Angela or Carol before viewing.

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Reading Club is back again this year – with a few changes. NEW this year: your order will now ship to your home and you can order online whenever you want at [scholastic.ca/clubshop](https://www.scholastic.ca/clubshop). When you checkout, please enter our Class Code. When you use our Class Code our center earns 20% of the value of the order in rewards and you get Free Shipping on your order of \$35 or more*. The rewards earned can be put towards books, digital teacher resources, and more! *Orders below \$35 will be charged \$3.50. You also have the option of bringing your order to the center as was done in the past and we will place the order for you. Cash and cheques payable to Parkdale Sherwood Headstart will be accepted. A due date will be posted on our Facebook page each month. Our Class Code is **RC143033**. Thank you for supporting our center.

Sharon

Staff Welcomes and Group News

Welcome to our Headstart family everyone. My name is Carol Ford and I am the Center Manager here at Headstart. I am thrilled to be beginning a new year and look forward to seeing your children every day. It is very entertaining to listen to their little voices every day and they bring me great joy. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time for any reason. We aim to please and are happy to hear any suggestions you have. Looking forward to another terrific year here at Headstart, *Carol*

Hello and welcome. I am Angela Sigsworth, and I am the Director here at Headstart. I am very excited to begin our Fall 2020 Program. Please know that my door was always open although you currently can't get to it, so if there is anything you need to discuss, or any questions you may have I am only a phone call or email away. I am looking forward to another great year of fun and learning at Headstart!

Angela

Welcome to all new and returning friends and families. I am excited to provide healthy snacks and lunches for another year. Happy Sept to you all and I look forward to another great year and happy eating.

Paula

Hello, Everyone. My name is Sharon Furness and I've been a certified early childhood educator since 2006. I've been fortunate to be with our youngest group since the dawn of the infant program at Headstart and am excited to begin my eleventh year with this age group. We always have lots of fun in our room as the children go through some of the biggest developments in their lives. I can't wait to begin another year.

Sharon

Hello, I am Jessie Chaisson and I am excited to be working alongside Rudaina with the Busy Bees Group this year in the kitchen area. I am a big believer in outdoor play in all weather and I also love promoting exploration through sensory play. We have a few new faces starting this fall and I look forward to working with everyone and their families over the next year!

Jessie

Hello everyone! My name is Glenda Mallett, I am a certified ECE and I will be team teaching with Sasha in the up front space. Our mixed group this year is called the Doodlebugs. I have worked at Headstart for many years. My husband John and I live/work on our family dairy farm with our son and his family in York. Our children are all grown up and we presently have eight beautiful grandchildren. I am excited and looking forward to getting to know our new children and their families over the next year.

Glenda

My name is Brenda. I am a fully certified, Level 3 ECE and a certified Montessori teacher. I am in my 10th year as an educator here at Headstart. This year I will be team teaching with Christina in the middle area, our group is called the Gummy Bears.

Brenda

Hello everyone,

My name is Christina Seeley, and this is going to be my third year working at Headstart. . I graduated Holland College's ECE program in 2017 and have been working at Headstart since. This year I am going to working in the middle area with Brenda and our groups name is the Gummy Bears. I am looking forward to this new, different than usual, school year!

Christina

Hello! My name is Emma Dunphy, I have been an Inclusion Specialist at Headstart for the past six years, and I'm excited to be in the Busy Bees group in the kitchen area. I look forward to meeting all of the new families joining our group this year!

Emma

Hello! My name is Susan Clark and I am an Educational Assistant here at Headstart. I am looking forward to another year of being with our older friends and meeting some new ones!

Susan

Hi everyone, my name is Jalisa MacLean. I am a recent graduate of the Early Childhood Care and Education program at Holland College. I first started at Headstart in 2018 doing my on the job training for school. After that I started subbing and working for the summer. And now I am going to be full time, and I am so excited!!

Jalisa

Hi, my name is Rudaina Abou Akel . I have been working at Headstart since 2016. I was a teacher for 10 years in Syria and have experience with children of all ages .I am looking forward another great year at Headstart .

Rudaina

Hello, my name is Claudia Swyer and I have been volunteering at Headstart since 2018. I am super excited to be part of the Headstart team as I pursue my studies in Psychology at UPEI. I am really looking forward to getting to know you this year.

Cluadia

~Children's Needs ~

Welcome to a new year at Headstart!

There are a few items that your child will require:

- a family photo, this does not need to be professional
- a zippered backpack to hold their belongings
- water bottle to be left at the center. We put them through the industrial dishwasher daily.
- 2 FULL changes of clothing (to be left in the backpack). Due to the plastic bag ban, we encourage families to provide a wet bag for any soiled clothing your child may have.
- 1 pair of indoor sneakers (non marking **no flashing lights**). PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE MULTIPLE PAIRS. Sneakers are the only footwear permitted in the gym, please no "fancy footwear."
- outdoor footwear (both sneakers and boots)
- a sweater or jacket for outdoor play
- outdoor clothing suitable for ALL types of weather
- for those in diapers or pull ups, please send a full sleeve of diapers or pull ups and a package of wipes. These will be placed in your child's designated space and you will be asked to replenish them when necessary.
- for those that nap, a nap blanket that can be left here. We will launder them at a minimum of once a week

PLEASE label all of your child's belongings. Their backpack or bag can be hung in their designated locker.

SEVERE ALLERGY ALERT PRECAUTIONS

Due to the allergies of children in our care we are asking all families to become aware of these safety precautions which will allow us to provide a safe environment for all children at Headstart.

1. Please **do not** bring any food into Headstart
2. Brush your child's teeth and wash your child's hands and face well before entering the daycare to ensure there is no peanut butter or nut products on their skin or clothing, or any residue from these items.
3. Ensure that sunscreens/lotions/creams/bug sprays do not contain peanut/egg oils or protein.
4. Please do not bring toys or costumes from home as they may have been exposed to the allergens.
5. Please help us to teach your child how to make our environment safe for all children by following these precautions.

If you would like additional information on anaphylaxis or nut and peanut allergies please contact Carol or Angela at 902-892-5916.

Thank you for your support!!

September 2020

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Shoaleh	2	3	4	5
6	CLOSED FOR LABOUR DAY	8	9  Silas	10  Harry	11	12
13	14	15  Sadie	16  Samuel	17	18	19
20	21	22 	23	24	25 Movie & PJ Day!! 	26
27	28	29	30			

🍁 2020 Group List-Cohorts 🍁

Belugas	The Busy Bees	The Gummy Bears	The Doodlebugs
Educator: Sharon	Educator: Jessie	Educator: Brenda	Educator: Glenda
Declan	Educator: Rudaina	Educator: Christina	Educator: Sasha
Landon	IS: Emma	Cormac	Marcus
Joel	Duncan	Pryor	Myra
	Sully	Shoaleh	Forest
	Samuel	Isabel	Silas
	Marina	Rosie	Beth
	Everett	Ollie	Gus
	Kieran	Bridget	Reemi
		Luke	Christian
		Ellie	Lucy
		Ethan R	Daisy
		Harry	Evelyn
		Sadie	Sophie
		Lincoln	Wesley
		Adalyn	Maddox
		Ethan G	Aiden
		Lochlan W	Lauchlan M
		Charley	Sutton

Support Staff: Susan, Jalisa, and Claudia

****Due to covid regulations these groups will not be changing throughout the year, infants will be added to the groups as they age out for regulation purposes and new infants will start.**

*The Baby Belugas and Busy Bees bubble together for play in the early morning, late afternoon, gym time, and outside play.

*The Gummy Bears and Doodlebugs bubble together for play in the early mornings, late afternoons, nap (for those that sleep) and outside play.

→ Each group has their own gym time (this has not changed)

→ When the groups become settled we will be taking the pre-kindergarten group aside for part of the day.