

KOOTENAY KIDS

EARLY CARE & LEARNING CENTRE

1102 Davies Street
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kootenay**kids**

**Parent Handbook
2021/2022**

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Dear families,

Welcome to Kootenay Kids Early Care & Learning Centre (KKECLC), a program of Kootenay Kids' Society. We look forward to working with you to provide a quality program for your child in a safe and caring environment.

Please take the time to read this handbook. It explains the policies and procedures of our centre so that you know what to expect. You will be given a Registration Form including a Parent/Society Agreement and we require that you sign this form, indicating that you understand and agree to abide by all the policies and procedures as stated in the family handbook and registration materials.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please bring them to the attention of the centre staff. Your feedback is important to us!

For an overview of all Kootenay Kids Society programs, services, updates and general society information please visit www.kootenaykids.ca.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Hours of Operation

Effective: September 1, 2018

Centre	Hours of Operation	Age of Children	Fees *fee reduction initiative in place to reduce monthly totals.
ECLC Infant and Toddler Program	7:45 am- 5:00 pm	6 weeks to 3 years	\$60.00/full day * \$35.00/ half day *
ECLC- 3-5 Year Olds	7:45 am- 5:00 pm	3-5 years	\$48.00/full day * \$30.00/half day *

Drop off and Pick up Times

KKECLC is open Monday to Friday. Children can be dropped off after 7:45 am and must be picked up by 5:00 pm.

If other arrangements are required, it must be indicated in their registration documents and approved by the KKECLC Director in advance.

If alternative arrangements have not been approved in advance, a fee will be charged to your account. Please review **Late Pick-Up Policy** for further details.

Fees and Financial Arrangements

The financial viability and continued operation of KKECLC is dependent upon childcare fees being paid in full and on time.

Fees are payable in advance.

Parents will receive an invoice for the upcoming month's fees during the last week of the previous month. Payment is due by the 1st business day of each month.

If outstanding fees are not paid by the last day of the current month, the child care space will be given to another family until the outstanding balance is paid or a repayment plan is agreed in writing with the Executive Director of the Kootenay Kids Society.

If the outstanding balance is not repaid or a repayment plan agreed in writing, after 45 days the child care space will be permanently forfeited and the account sent to a collection agency.

E-transfer is an option for payment. Should you be interested in taking advantage of this payment method, through your financial institution (bank fees might apply), you will be required to set up Kootenay Kids as a recipient in the “**Send e-transfers**” window in your online banking.

To ensure that Kootenay Kids can deposit your payment, please set up the following details when **Adding a Recipient** in your online banking:

Name: Kootenay Kids society
Email: ECLC@kootenaykids.ca
Send Transfer by: Email

For addition Information, contact Susi at 250-352-6678 ext 3.

Child Care Subsidies

As of April 1st, 2018, KKECLC has opted in to the Childcare Fee Reduction Initiative. For children under the age of 3 there is a reduction of \$17.50 per day to a maximum of \$350.00 per month. For children aged 3-5 there is a reduction of \$5.00 per day to a maximum of \$100.00 per month. This contract is able to be renewed each year and you will receive notice that the centre has been approved.

Parents are responsible for applying and re-applying as necessary for the [Provincial Affordable Child Care Benefit](#).

The Provincial Affordable Child Care program does not cover 100% of childcare fees. Parents receiving subsidies are responsible for the portion of their childcare fees not covered by the benefit.

Assistance applying for subsidies is available at KKECLC (please speak to the Director), or at the Child Care Resource and Referral office (804 Stanley Street).

Child Care Cancellation/Termination of Care

Parents are required to give one-month notice, **in writing**, if they wish to cancel days or terminate care. Parents are responsible for paying for care until the one-month notice has been honored.

NSF Cheque

If a cheque is returned for non-sufficient funds and therefore fees have not been paid on time a note will be placed on the parent's statement requesting the parent contact the Director of Childcare Programs to arrange payment or an action plan for payment. There will be a \$40.00 banking charge levied by Kootenay Kids Society on all NSF cheques.

Late Pick-up Policy

A fee equal to the cost of half an hour of staff wages including benefits, will be charged if I am beyond 5:00. If I am more than 15 minutes late to pick up my child, a fee of 1 full day will be charged. **Should extenuating circumstances arise beyond my control that cause me to be late to pick up my child, the Director will have the discretion to waive the late fee.** If a parent/authorized individual fails to inform the centre one hour before centre closure that they will be delayed, the child will be released to their emergency contact. If no authorized person can be reached, the child/children will be released to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The late pick-up fee(s) will be charged on the next invoice and shown separately. The parents will be required to sign the Late Pick-up book to confirm that the child was picked up later.

Statutory Holidays and Other Closures

KKECLC is closed for all statutory holidays. Parents will not be charged for these days.

In the event of a SD#8 school closure due to heavy snowfall, the childcare centre will also be closed. Centre Director and Senior Supervisors will have a parent list with phone numbers at their homes to contact you to prevent anyone, including staff, from making the drive in to the centre.

In addition, the Centre will be closed for 3 to 4 professional development days per year. Parents will be informed of such closures at least 2 months in advance and will be required to pay a \$42.00 fee on these days as it is to the benefit of your child that educators remain current and inspired in their field.

Vacation

The parent will not be reimbursed for vacation. If the parent gives two months' notice regarding vacation time, the Centre will make every effort to find a child for the term/portion of the vacation. If

the Centre is successful, the parent will be credited 100% of the fee. If the Centre is unable to find a short term replacement, the parent is responsible to pay for the care space.

Sick Time

The parent will not be credited fees for any time that their child is sick. The parent is responsible to pay for the care space. If the parent expects their child to be away for a longer period of time due to critical illness or injury, the centre will make every effort to find a child to temporarily fill the space. However, if no replacement can be found, the parent is responsible to pay the fee for the space.

Absence

In the event of absenteeism, the parent is responsible for full payment of fees. It is the parent's responsibility to contact the Centre to advise of absences.

HEALTH CARE POLICY

Health and Safety

Our Centre is completely Nut Free. There are typically severe allergies in the centre so be sure to check the labels on all foods to ensure there are no traces of any of the above in the food you are sending with your child.

Our goal is to implement and maintain high standards of hygiene so that the spread of illness is kept to a minimum. To this end we have a strict health policy that we need to work on together.

Health Precautions

All staff members follow universal precautions in order to prevent the transmission of germs and/or disease. Some examples are:

- a) Washing hands with soap and hot water before preparing food and after using washroom.
- b) Using latex gloves when encountering bodily fluids.
- c) Cleaning surfaces that have had contact with bodily fluids with Virox (accelerated hydrogen peroxide) solution.
- d) Regular washing and disinfection of toys.

When to Keep Your Child At Home

There are three important issues in determining when a child is too ill to attend a day care. This requirement is based on:

- a) Protecting other children from communicable disease

- b) Ensuring the comfort and safety of the child who is ill, and
- c) The capacity of the program to care for a sick child (we cannot spare one staff to care for one child)

Do not send your child when they have any of the following conditions:

*Chicken Pox	*Measles	*Scabies
*Discharge from the eye	*Mumps	*Strep Throat
*Head Lice or Nits	*Parasite	*Tuberculosis
*Hepatitis	*Pink Eye	*Vomiting
*Impetigo	*Rash	*Whooping Cough
*Ringworm	*Rubella	*Hand/Foot/Mouth

The following is a list of conditions for which you are asked to keep your child at home:

- a) Difficulty in breathing – wheezing
- b) Fever of 37.8 C (100 F) degrees or more in the previous 24hrs
- c) Infected skin or eyes, or an undiagnosed rash
- d) Diarrhea or vomiting
- e) Known or suspected communicable disease
- f) Unable to fully participate in the program and activities
- g) Parents are also required to keep a child at home if the child is not well enough to take part in any of the regular programs (outdoor play) and activities of the daycare.

When a Child becomes Ill During the Day

A staff member will phone to ask you to come and pick up your child if they become ill. Your child will be made as comfortable as possible and closely supervised by staff. They may be isolated from other children to prevent the spread of any illness. If you are unavailable, we will contact the emergency contact person listed on the registration form. Please note that it is ultimately the staff's decision as to whether an ill child can remain in the centre.

If your child has been sent home ill during the day it is **expected that they will stay home the following day** to fully recover. If your child has been sent home due to vomiting or diarrhea it is **expected that they will stay at home for 48 hours** after the last episode.

Communicable Disease

If your child has a communicable disease, please inform staff. A note will be posted to inform other parents of the risks and symptoms associated with the disease. Before the child may return, parents must provide a physician's note, including that the child is **free from symptoms and risks** associated with disease.

Medication Outside of Centre Hours

Please notify staff of any medication given to your child outside of childcare. If your child must be taken for emergency treatment, and you cannot be contacted, this information may be of critical importance.

EMERGENCIES

Medical

- a) If **First Aid treatment** is required, staff qualified in First Aid will administer treatment.
- b) If **medical attention** is required, staff qualified in First Aid will attend to the needs of the child, while another person contacts the parent or, in the case that the parent cannot be reached, the child's emergency contact will be called. If neither the parent nor the child's emergency contact can be reached, staff will contact the child's doctor. If the doctor cannot be reached, arrangements will be made to transport the child to the medical facility. A staff member will accompany the child for support, and give all known medical information to the doctor. Staff will continue to try to contact the child's parent/emergency contact.
- c) If emergency medical attention is required, qualified staff will administer First Aid while another person will call and request an ambulance and contact the child's parents or, if necessary, the child's emergency contact or doctor.

*For all of the above situations, staff will complete Accident/Illness reports or Incident reports (as applicable).

Building Evacuation

Fire drill/evacuation procedures are posted. We carry out fire drills monthly. Our emergency evacuation location is the LV Rogers High School Gym, located at 1004 Cottonwood St., Nelson 250-352-5538. In the event that the centre must be evacuated, staff will take the children to this location. From here, staff will phone all parents or, if necessary, emergency contacts, to come and pick up the children.

Unauthorized Person on the Premises

All visitors to the centre, excluding parents/guardian of the children enrolled in the centre, must check in with the centre staff. For the safety and security of children and staff, visitors will not be permitted to wander around KKECLC property. Any unauthorized persons will be asked to leave the premises. If necessary, staff will contact local police for assistance.

PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE

Philosophy Statement

Helping children to realize their full human potential is our goal. By recognizing the human similarities in each of us and by positively valuing differences, parents and Early Childhood Educators together can provide each child with the opportunity to develop his/her own strengths.

- ❖ All children deserve to be treated with respect
- ❖ Understanding that children are social beings who construct knowledge in collaboration with others, we encourage children to develop a respect for all of their peers regardless of size, age, race, social status, gender, culture, religion, language or ability.
- ❖ Guidance is an integral part of the child's sense of security. Limits that are reasonable and are taught in a consistent, non-threatening manner will encourage the child's sense of trust and security.
- ❖ Each child's feelings and uniqueness should be respected and all guidance and discipline techniques will be followed through with care and respect.
- ❖ Parents are the biggest influence in a child's life. A central focus of the care of children will be to develop, strengthen and maintain the child's emotional attachment with the parent. The efforts made to care for each child will be sensitive to, and support the culture of, the families served. The goal is for the staff to work in partnership with the family of each child.
- ❖ We strive to meet the individual developmental needs of each child by encouraging physical, emotional, intellectual, and social growth.
- ❖ We believe that children learn best through play and hands on experiences so we focus our program on child centered activities and continually observe and evaluate the environment to make changes and to provide activities that enhance the children's skills and interests.
- ❖ Through observation of each child and understanding that they are unique in personality, temperament, and developmental abilities we facilitate the development of communication including gesturing, sign language, decision-making, problem solving and listening.

Guidance

With regard to guidance, Kootenay Kids' goal is to encourage and assist children to develop positive relationships and strengthen social skills.

Guidance used in Kootenay Kids' programs shall be in accordance with BC Child Care Regulations.

“Preventative guidance” is the most important element of our program. All staff must use the following techniques in attempt to achieve the above goal;

- develop a respectful relationship with each child
- provide a warm, nurturing, secure atmosphere
- plan a balance of activities that are age appropriate
- reinforce appropriate behaviour

From time-to-time inappropriate behaviour will arise. Staff should deal with this by using positive and supportive techniques such as;

- using natural or logical consequences
- modeling - children learn through imitation
- diverting or changing children's activities
- acknowledging children's feelings and helping them to express them in an appropriate way

Any form of discipline that could harm a child in any way, physically or emotionally, is PROHIBITED in any Kootenay Kids' centre. Such forbidden disciplinary techniques include, but are not limited to:

- corporal punishment on the part of staff, a parent/guardian, or another child/group of children
- deliberate harsh or degrading measures that would humiliate a child or undermine a child's self respect
- locking child care facility exits for the purpose of confining a child
- using a locked room or structure to confine a child who has been withdrawn from other children
- denying a child basic needs such as food, clothing, bedding.

Discussion concerning child guidance is encouraged between parents and staff. Open communication is key to achieving the common goal of providing a stable and nurturing environment for the children.

ACTIVE PLAY/SCREEN TIME POLICY

KKECLC recognizes the importance of physical activity for young children. Implementation of appropriate physical activity practices supports the health and development of children in care, as well as assisting in establishing positive lifestyle habits for the future.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that children in care are supported and encouraged to engage in active play, develop fundamental movement skills and to have limited screen time. Our centre encourages all children to participate in a range of daily physical activity opportunities that are appropriate for their age, that are fun and that offer variety.

Adequate physical activity promotes bone health, is protective against obesity and is beneficial for child social, psychological and fundamental movement skills development. Through active movement a child becomes stronger, coordinated and can explore the capabilities of their body. For babies, providing opportunities to move freely helps to develop their senses, promote good posture, strength and balance, and teaches them about their bodies and the world around them.

Fundamental movement skills are the building blocks for more complex and specialized skills that children need throughout their lives so they can competently and confidently play different games, sports and recreational activities. Fundamental movement skills include running, catching, jumping, kicking, galloping, leaping, hopping, dribbling a ball, side-stepping, striking a ball, underarm rolling and over arm throwing.

In order to promote physical activity and provide all children with numerous opportunities for physical activity throughout the day KKECLC will:

Daily Physical Play

- Encourage a least restrictive, safe environment for infants and toddlers at all times.
- Provide a designated safe outdoor area for infants (ages 0-12 months) for daily outdoor play.
- Provide toddlers (ages 1 through 2 years old) with at least 60-90 minutes of daily outdoor active play opportunities across 2 or 3 separate occasions.
- Provide children (30 months to school age) with at least 90-120 minutes of daily outdoor active play opportunities across 2 or 3 separate occasions.
- Increase indoor active play time so the total amount of active play time remains the same, if weather limits outdoor time.
- Provide a variety of play materials (both indoor and outdoor) that promote physical activity.

Role of Staff in Physical Activity

- Encourage children to be physically active indoors and outdoors at appropriate times
- Provide 5- 10 minutes of planned physical activities at least 2 times daily for children aged 3 and older.
- Provide outdoor spaces that support children to explore and experience the natural environment.
- Provide safety procedures and risk management strategies when implementing physical activity.
- Ensure that all rough and tumble and risky play is well supervised and all children involved are willing participants.

Screen Time Limitations

- Not permit screen time (e.g., television, movies, video games and computers) for infants and children two years and younger.
- Only permit minimal use of screen time (ipad, computer) to enhance a learning opportunity with visuals or with specific programming (e.g. Moe the Mouse – Speech/Language Program) for children 30 months to 5 years.

Physical Activity and Guidance

Staff members do not withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., not being permitted to play with the rest of the class or being kept from play time), except when a child's behaviour is dangerous to him/herself or others. Staff members never use physical activity or exercise as a consequence for unacceptable behaviour. Play time or other opportunities for physical activity are never withheld to enforce the completion of learning activities or academic work. Our centre uses appropriate alternate strategies as consequences for negative or undesirable behaviours. See Guidance Policy in Parent Handbook for more details.

Appropriate Dress for Physical Activity

We at KKECLC require that all children come to the centre Ready to Play! Please bring your child ready to play and have fun each day. Your child will participate in both indoor and outdoor play. Therefore, play clothes and shoes which can get dirty and allow for free and safe movement are most appropriate. We expect parents to provide children with appropriate clothing for safe and active outdoor play during all seasons. For safety, open toed shoes, sandals or flip-flops are less desirable for everyday use and a definite no for field trips. In Winter please provide a warm jacket, snowsuit or snow pants, hat, waterproof mittens and winter boots. In Spring and Fall, provide a jacket or sweater as well as a rain jacket, pants and boots. In Summer, provide light clothing, swimsuit, towel, sun hat and sunscreen. Please label all outer garments with your child's name.

It is our expectation that children will go outside on at least two occasions EVERYDAY!! If you feel your child is too sick to go outside then they are too sick to be at the centre. We request that you keep him/her home until they are well enough to go outside.

Rough and Tumble/Risky Play

Here at KKECLC, we believe in the value of exuberant, boisterous, rough and tumble play to a child's overall development. This vigorous body play allows children the opportunities to use language—both verbal and non-verbal, and learn how to negotiate, take turns, wait, compromise, sometimes lead and sometimes hold back, and make and follow rules. They are learning about cause and effect and developing empathy. Big body play also supports optimum physical development because it is so vigorous. Since children enjoy it so much they tend to engage in it for an extended amount of time. This style of play incorporates a range of physical behaviours that range from running and chasing to tagging and wrestling. By definition, rough and tumble play is when children willingly do the following: Laugh, run, jump, tag, wrestle, chase and flee.

To support the use of big body play, we do the following:

- Provide training to all staff on the importance of big body play and how to supervise it.
- Prepare both indoor and outdoor environments for this style of play.
- Establish classroom and playground rules with the children to keep them safe and help them know what to expect.
- Encourage staff to use big body games with the children.
- Supervise the play constantly, which means ensuring an adult is watching and listening at all times.
- Model appropriate play, coach children as they play so that they are able to interact comfortably with each other in this way.

Daily Schedule

KKECLC will strive to provide a balance of structure and free play, of active and quiet time, and of indoor and outdoor play. We strive to maintain a balance of activities that enhance the development of each child.

Lunch and Snack

Nutritious snacks will be provided. Parents are responsible for providing lunch for their child. We take into consideration any allergies and diet restrictions, as indicated on the child's registration form, when planning snack time. It is therefore critical that you keep that staff informed of any changes to your child's dietary limitations.

Outdoor Play

We take all children outside to play daily. Please pack and **LABEL** clothing for your child that is appropriate for the weather. In the winter they should have suitable warm outerwear including boots, snow pants, hat, and mittens. In the spring, summer and fall your child will need a hat and sunscreen or raingear.

Sleep/Rest Time

It is a licensing requirement that children enrolled for a full day have a rest period. Most children find a full and busy day at KKECLC a lot more exhausting than a day at home and benefit from a short rest or sleep. If you find that the amount of time your child sleeps during the day interferes with sleep patterns at home, please let staff know. We will work together to limit his/her sleep during the day. Please inform staff of the regular going to sleep routines that you have established. Bring that stuffy or special blanket if it makes going to sleep easier.

Field Trip and Walks

You will be asked to give permission for your child to attend field trips and walks. A notice will be posted prior to any planned field trip, informing you of the time and destination. All children will attend unless parents choose otherwise.

- Before each field trip, staff will visit the location to ensure the environment is both age-appropriate and free from any safety hazards
- Emergency cards and first aid supplies are brought along on all excursions
- Extra caregivers accompany children on all excursions
- Parents are always invited to come along

Toileting

A staff person will accompany children during toileting.

Clothing

Our motto is **“dress for mess!”** Please make sure your child comes dressed in comfortable, washable play clothes. Be aware that children are involved in art and other messy activities during the day.

Please have in their cubby an extra set of clothing for your child in case of toileting, creative, or water play accidents. Your child will require inside shoes.

PLEASE LABEL ALL YOUR CHILD’S CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, Lunch boxes, containers, water bottles.

Toys from Home

Children are encouraged to keep toys from home at home. A stuffed animal, blanket or pillow from home for rest time is acceptable. Please be aware that we are not responsible for lost or damaged items. Any items brought at this time should be clearly marked with the child's name.

Guns, toys with weapons, war toys and other toys of destruction are not permitted at any time. Your child will be offered alternate ways to express feelings of aggression, such as discussion, equipment play, and activities.

APPREHENSION BY THE MINISTRY OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

In the event that the Ministry should come to apprehend a child, staff members do not have the power to intervene.

Suspected Child Abuse

We are required by law to report any incidents of suspected abuse and/or neglect to the Ministry for Children and Family or the RCMP.

Suspicion of Abuse/Neglect in Centre

KKECLC strives to offer quality childcare. If at anytime you have concerns about our programs please contact the Senior Supervisors of your child's program or the Director.

Appropriate Language and Behaviour

As this is a community-based organization that services young children, all adults coming into the centre must use appropriate language and behaviour. Threatening behaviour by a parent or visitor will necessitate notifying the police. KOOTENAY KIDS SOCIETY does not support coercive discipline (e.g. spanking, hitting) and parents will not be permitted to do so at the centre.

RELEASE OF CHILD

Authorized Persons

Children will not be released to anyone who is not listed on the child's registration form as an authorized person. Staff will also not release a child to anyone who is under 12 years of age.

You are responsible for providing written notification if there is a change in pick up arrangements. If an emergency arises during the day, and someone else must pick up your child, you are required to telephone the centre and speak with a staff member. If the person is unfamiliar to staff, you will have to provide us with the person's name, address, phone number and a physical description. The person will be required to show photo identification before staff will release the child.

Alleged impaired pick up

Upon suspicion that an adult who is picking up a child from our care is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or is otherwise unable to protect the child, staff members are obligated to request that the individual does not leave the premise with their child. The staff may call an alternate adult to pick up the child as recommended by the parent. If the adult insists on leaving with the child by vehicle, the staff will notify the local police and inform them of the license plate number, direction that the adult has gone, and the address of the family. The Ministry for Children and Family Development will also be notified if staff feels the pick up person is unable to protect the child.

Custody

If a custodial parent does not want a non-custodial parent to have access to their child at the centre, we must have a copy of the custody papers and court orders on file. If a parent who is unauthorized, as outlined on the custody papers, arrives at the child care facility, staff will ask him or her to leave and, if necessary, telephone the police for assistance.

Smoking

The centre fenced grounds and parking lot are non-smoking areas. Parents are asked to extinguish cigarettes before entering the grounds. This includes vaping as well.

Parking

Please be aware that there will be a number of vehicles using the KKECLC parking lot between 8.00am - 8.45am and 3.00pm - 3.45pm. Please drive with extra caution.

Program Evaluation

We are always striving to improve our programs. Parent feedback is essential to providing service that meets family and community needs. In addition to providing us with on-going feedback, we would appreciate your assistance by taking the time to complete our annual program evaluation questionnaire. We'll let you know when the time comes!

Kootenay Lake School District

We wish to give special thanks to Kootenay Lake School District for leasing us this building, janitorial services, maintenance, and general support for our Society.

If, after reading this Parent Orientation Handbook, the KKECLC Registration Form and our Clients Rights and Responsibilities brochure, you have any questions or concerns regarding our policies and procedures, please bring them to our attention. Please keep a copy of all forms for your files.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTED CHILDCARE PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR A CHILD TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL OR CHILD CARE SERVICES

- Supported Child Care: Depending on the family's financial situation, funding may be available for children with developmental delays through the *Supported Childcare Program*. The Ministry may provide extra and/or specialized staff in order to accommodate the needs of all children in care. Children who require extra supports will participate fully in the regular program, with additional support as required. All staff work directly with these children so as to promote inclusion, not segregation.
- Child Care Subsidy: You can call 1 866 866-0800 to find out if you are eligible for Child Care Subsidy for preschool or child care services.
http://www.mcf.gov.b.ca/childcare/subsidy_promo.htm

Kootenay Kids Programs: Located at Family Place

312 Silica Street, Phone: 250 352-6678

- Pregnancy Outreach and Community Action Program for Children: assists pregnant women to have healthier babies. The program offers extra free food and vitamins, individual support and a weekly meeting with a free lunch.
- Life After Birth: assisting parents to make the transition to parenthood during the first year, offering one to one phone contact, one to one help and breast feeding support, weekly mothers drop-in group, home support right after birth and a post-partum adjustment support groups.

- Parent support and education : We offer on going support and education for families of children 0-6 who have questions about; their children's behaviour and development, parenting and discipline, relationships and coping.
- Aboriginal Early Intervention: Little Robes Aboriginal program offers drop-in group for aboriginal children and parents including traditional teachings, crafts, and snacks. The program aims to promote healthy babies and preschoolers and is a wonderful opportunity for Aboriginal families to connect.

And many more workshops and events!

Kootenay Kids Programs: Located at 804 Stanley Street.

- Child Care Resource and Referral: training opportunities for care providers and parents, childcare referrals, tips on choosing quality child care, playgroups, resource library and networking opportunities. Services available out of town by outreach van.
- Pediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy: Providing services to children from birth to six years of age where there are concerns regarding physical, sensory, behavioural, and/or cognitive development. Referrals can be from any source with parents consent. Phone 250-352-0407 Fax: 250-352-0410.

Kootenay Kids Society programs: located at Redfish, Rosemont and Blewett Elementary

- Nelson Outreach Strong Start programs: an early learning, free drop-in program for preschool children 0-5 years and their parents or caregivers. Offered throughout the school calendar year. For schedules go to www.kootenaykids.ca or phone 250-352-6678.

Other resources for parent information

- Interior Health Authority: for information on Public Health, Licensing, Adult Mental Health, Early Hearing, Speech and Language Pathologists, Nutritionists, Children's Dental Health, Environmental Health phone 250-505-7200.
- Ministry of Children and Family Development: for information on Social Workers, Child Mental Health and Child Protection phone 250-354-6480.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS at Kootenay Kids Society

A governance model volunteer Board of Directors oversees the functioning of Kootenay Kids Society and the society's programs. The Board meets monthly to discuss current issues, reviews policies and

procedures, oversees the Society's budgets and engages in Strategic Planning and goal setting for the organization. If you are interested in becoming a board member please phone our Executive Director at 250-352-6678 ext. 7 for information on how to get involved.

Staff at KKECLC

All of our regular staff are trained, professional Early Childhood Educators. They all have first aid certification and have all undergone a criminal record check. There are staff members who are licensed Infant/Toddler Educators and/or Special Needs Educators.

Volunteers, Practicum Students, Substitutes (Casuals)

Substitutes are necessary to replace sick and vacationing regular staff. All of our substitutes are certified in Early Childhood Education or have Responsible Adult certification and provide extra supervision during excursions and outings. There will be at least one certified Early Childhood Educator in the program at all times.

From time to time, we also have volunteers and practicum students involved in our program. All of the individuals have undergone record checks prior to working in the centre.

The regular staff will make every effort to introduce you to the substitutes, practicum students, and volunteers when you are dropping off/picking up your child. If they are busy, please do not hesitate to introduce yourself.

THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

- The right to a name and nationality.
- The right to affection, love, and understanding and to material security.
- The right to adequate nutrition, housing, and medical services.
- The right to special care if handicapped; be it physically, mentally, or socially.
- The right to be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation.
- The right to full opportunity of play and recreation and equal opportunity to free compulsory education, to enable the child to develop his individual abilities and to become a useful member of society.
- The right to develop his full potential in conditions of freedom and dignity.
- The right to be brought up in spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace, and universal brotherhood.
- The right to enjoy these rights regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, and property, birth or other status.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support children in our communities to reach their full developmental potential by providing programming, education, and resources for children, their families, and service providers.

OUR VISION

Kootenay Kids Society will be widely known as a dynamic, progressive community organization and employer dedicated to ensuring families in our communities, in all their uniqueness and diversity, receive the supports and services they need to thrive.

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY

We are children, youth, adults, and seniors

We are of all races, all religions, all cultures, all abilities,
all sexual orientation, and all economic levels.

We speak many languages.

We value diversity.

We endeavor to reflect this diversity in our volunteers, board, and staff.

We respect all our neighbours and clients and extend our respect to them in all that we do.

We embrace all types of families.

Therefore, we will act to promote inclusion of all in our agency and in our community.

