

Discovery World Daycare Parent Handbook



Philosophy

At Discovery World Daycare, we believe in providing a safe, positive and nurturing environment to help children develop mentally, socially, physically and emotionally. Through play, children learn about themselves and the world around them. We offer guidance and encouragement that will meet each child's individual needs. Our daily routine offers a wide variety of art activities, stories, and free play in which children can explore at their own level. We offer developmentally appropriate toys, equipment and materials that will encourage their learning and growth. Our qualified staff members have the knowledge and experience to work together with your children and your family.

Hours of Operation

The daycare will be open from 7:30am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday

*Before & After School Care and Summer camp 7:30am to 5:00pm

Excluding all Statuary Holidays and daycare closures:

Family Day	Good Friday
Victoria Day	Canada Day
BC Day	Labour Day
Thanksgiving Day	Remembrance Day
Christmas Day	New Year's Day
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	

Our daycare will also be **CLOSED Easter Monday, pre-approved Professional Development days and 2 weeks for Christmas Break**

*All closures are calculated into the monthly fees

Discovery World Child Care Fees:

For childcare fee enquiries, please email info@discoveryworlddaycare.ca

Fees may be subject to annual increases. 30 days written notice will be given.

*Providing After School Care from Raymer Elementary School

Daily Rate for care applies for children in our After School program on Pro-D and other non-school days of care.

Drop In = Daily Rates when available; space permitting.

Fees are due on the first of the month, payable by cash, check or e-transfer.

Please write checks out to Discovery World Daycare Ltd.

Send e-transfers to: accounting@discoveryworlddaycare.ca

** 1 months' written notice will be provided prior to any fee changes.

*** \$25 for NSF checks will be charged.

*** A late charge of \$25 will be charged after the 10th of the month for late fees

Affordable Child Care Benefit- Office (1-888-338-6622)

If you qualify for subsidy all paperwork, appointments, and approval must be completed before your start date at Discovery World. In the event that it is not approved, full payment is required. It is the responsibility of you to keep the subsidy up to date. You may be required to pay your child care bill if subsidy has not been renewed. If you cannot afford the payment, then you will be asked to not bring your child until the new renewal of authorization has arrived and payment has been received. If the subsidy is not renewed, then your child care services will be terminated immediately. Any parent portion will be due on the first of the month, late fees apply.

Late Fees

You will be notified if payment has not been received by the 10th of the month. If the payment is not made within 5 business days, you will be asked not to return your child to the daycare until the amount owing is paid in full. If the payment still has not been paid within 2 business days and you have not completed a payment agreement form, your child's care will be terminated, and the spot will be filled. You are still responsible for the payment. A \$25 late fee will be applied to your invoice. You may be taken to collections to clear up the matter.

Registration

Before enrollment you must complete all our registration forms and meet at a time previously arranged. A staff member will provide you with a walk through of the daycare, review the manual, answer questions, and receive a non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 to secure your spot. If you fail to complete the form or arrange for late enrollment, you will be considered to have abandoned your spot and the full deposit will not be refunded. If any documents are missing or incomplete, your child will not be able to attend the daycare until they are complete. Monthly fees still apply. Enrollment at Discovery World is on a first come first serve basis, with the exception to siblings given first priority.

The first 2-weeks of child care are to be an adjustment period. Provided the above-mentioned conditions have been met, either party can terminate the contract during this time by giving notice to the other. If notice is given within the adjustment period, no penalty will be charged and families will be reimbursed for pre-paid services, less any days attended times the programs' daily rate. The deposit remains non-refundable.

Notice of Withdrawal

You must notify the daycare in written form 30-days prior to the withdrawal of your child or change of days. You will not be refunded for pre-paid days if 30-days' notice is not given.

Termination of Services

After several attempts to resolve an issue, if we feel that no progress is being made, we reserve the right to terminate our services. In the event that we do terminate services, we will give you a 1-week written notice stating the reasoning and date of termination. You will be reimbursed for pre-paid services, less any days attended times the programs' daily rate.

Absenteeism

If a child is unable to attend, please notify the daycare before 10:00am. Refunds will not be given for children who do not attend.

Custody

If a custody or court order exists within your family, a copy of the order must be placed in your child's file and the instructions followed at all times. Families must inform us of all custody and court order changes.

Hand washing/Sanitation

Hand washing plays a key role in preventing the spread of colds and flus. We practice hand washing several times throughout the day. The daycare and toys are sanitized on a daily basis.

Toys from Home

At Discovery World, we ask that children do not bring toys from home to avoid conflict, loss, or harm to their toys.

Arrival/Departure

Upon arrival and prior to departing, your child must be signed into or out of the daycare. Sign in/out must include the time and initial of the person dropping off or picking up. You must inform a staff member if there are any changes to your child's regular schedule at the time of drop-off.

Late Pick-up

Our programs close at 5:00pm, parents are expected to arrive 5-min before closing to ensure their child is signed out and all personal items are collected. Any parent/guardian who are late will be charged \$1.00 per minute; *this is out of respect for our staff and their families*. All late fees will be applied to your next month's invoice and if payment is refused, we reserve the right to terminate our services immediately, and refunds will not be given for pre-paid unused days in this case. In the event your child has not been picked up by 5:00pm, you or an emergency contact will be notified. In the event that we cannot locate any of your provided contacts, your child will be kept at the daycare in the care of a staff member until 6:00pm. And subsequently, if we have not heard from you and could not get in contact with an authorized person listed in the registration package by 6:00pm, our staff are obligated to notify the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Your child will be kept in our care at the daycare until a social worker arrives.

If late pick up is a repeated issue, we will meet to address the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved, child care services will be terminated immediately. Refunds will not be given for prepaid unused days and outstanding late fees still apply. Please respect our staff and get here on time.

Authorized Pick-up

Children are only released into the care of those listed on the pick-up list located on the registration form. If pick-up is necessary by someone not listed on the registration package, then **written permission** from a legal guardian is required. You cannot phone in people to pick-up your child. If the staff do not recognize the person picking up the child, photo identification will be required. No one under the age of 16 is permitted to pick up your child. If exemptions on our age limit needs to be made, please speak to the manager.

Impaired Pick-up

If any staff member believes that you may be impaired, you will be advised to arrange for alternate pick-up. Taxi service will be at your expense. Should someone be suspected of being impaired and insist upon leaving with their child, a staff member will contact the RCMP immediately to ensure the safety of the child.

Parking

Park on the street in front of the daycare or on the concrete pad and gravel area in front of our building entrance. Parking in the lane beside the daycare is **not legal** under City of Kelowna bylaws. Out of respect to our neighbors and the health and safety of the children please do not leave your vehicle idling, or other children under the age of 10 in your vehicle at drop off or pick up.

Transportation

All transportation to and from school and on field trips will be provided by our passenger van and/or another properly licensed and insured vehicle.

Smoking/Vaping/Cannabis

While children are in our care, no one is to smoke, vape or use cannabis on the premises or in any vehicle used to transport children. Also, please do not send your child's belongings with any sort of odor from these items.

Illness

If your child is suffering from one or more of the following symptoms and not feeling well enough to participate in the daycares regular program, your child is required to be picked up by either their parent or an alternate responsible adult immediately. If your child arrives at the daycare with any of these symptoms, child care for that day will be refused. Regular child care fees still apply.

- Unexplained or undiagnosed complaints of pain.
- An acute cold with fever, runny nose and eyes, coughing and sore throat. PLEASE keep your child at home for at least 24-hr from the last time you were able to bring their fever down to a normal level.
- Difficulty with their breathing, wheezing or a persistent cough.
- Fever (100.5F or 38.1C) using the ear method.
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing.
- Infected skin or eyes.
- An undiagnosed rash.
- Headache and stiff neck.
- Unexplained diarrhea or loose stool combined with nausea, vomiting or abdominal cramps. PLEASE keep your child at home for at least 24hrs from the last time they vomited or had diarrhea.
- Severe itching of the body or scalp.
- Children with a known or suspected communicable disease.
- Refer to a 'A Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases'.
- Refer to interiorheath.ca – Communicable Disease Control and Prevention.

Immunizations

Please provide the daycare with a copy and/or status of your child's immunization records if applicable.

Head Lice

If we discover head lice on your child; you will be notified at pick-up and your child will not be permitted back into the daycare until your child has received treatment and is verified to be free and clear of any lice or eggs.

Biting

Our program recognizes that biting is, unfortunately, not unexpected when toddlers are in group care. We are always upset when children are bitten in our program, and we recognize how upsetting it is for parents of both the bitten as well as the biter.

While we feel that biting is never the right thing for toddlers to do, we know that they bite for a variety of reasons. Most of these reasons are not related to behavior problems. Our program, then, does not focus on punishment for biting, but on effective techniques that address the specific reason for the biting, and instruct the child on better approaches for the future. We exclude children from the program only as a last resort, following an ongoing and persistent biting episode, should it be determined that the biting is associated with a behavioral problem which results in an unsafe environment for other children

Medication

For the protection of the children, staff members will only administer medication that is prescribed by a medical practitioner and provided by the parent/guardian in the **original labeled container** with a syringe or cup. All medication forms must be filled out prior to administering; please allow yourself enough time in the morning to fill out this form. All medications will be secured in a container with the exception to children with severe allergies requiring an epi-pen. Please **DO NOT** leave medications in your child's lunch kits or backpacks.

Clothing

You must provide your child with one full set of labeled, seasonal clothing to be left at the daycare. Appropriate headwear must be provided according to the season for outside use.

Outdoor Play

Children will spend time outside daily unless it is viewed unsafe to do, at which point they will participate in indoor activities. Factors which will be considered include: temperature, wind chill, UV index and Air Quality. It is important that you provide your child with weather appropriate gear every day.

Gradual Entry

Gradual entry procedures are available upon request. Please contact daycare administration to work out a plan that best suits you and your child.

Active play/Screen Time

Active play is physical activity which includes moderate to vigorous bursts of high energy, raises children's heart rate and may make them 'huff and puff' such as running or jumping. For an infant or toddler, active play may include reaching out for a toy, rolling over, balancing in a sitting position and crawling/walking.

Active play helps to promote healthy growth and development and supports body control and movement. Active play can help build strong bones and muscles, improve balance, coordination and assists with the development of gross motor and fine motor skills. Active play also helps to promote children's confidence, improves concentration and thinking and learning skills and provides opportunities to develop social skills and make friends.

In compliance with the provincial regulations for active play and physical movement, please find Discovery Worlds schedule for all programs detailed below:

- 60 minutes Open Learning (unfacilitated free play)
- 30 minutes Gross Motor Development (facilitated indoor play)
- 45 minutes Morning Outdoor Play (unfacilitated)
- 30 minutes Co-curricular (facilitated music, dance, drama, art, yoga)
- 45 minutes Afternoon Outdoor Play (unfacilitated) 30 minutes Open Learning (facilitated rhymes and dance)

Please be sure to send your child to school with appropriate outdoor clothing as children will play outside regardless of weather (unless the local health authority advises otherwise).

In addition to promoting active play, our daycare limits screen time (TV, computer, electronic games) to 30 minutes or less a day and screen time is not offered to children under two years of age. For children under the age of two, prolonged sitting activities (stroller, highchair, table games) are limited to 30 minutes or less at any one time.

Field Trips

We may take spontaneous walks through the neighborhood and to local parks. If transportation is required, we will ask that you sign a field trip consent form prior to departure. The daycare will provide an appropriate car seat for your child to attend; Following ICBC Regulations.

Toileting/Diapering

We feel that each child is ready for training at different ages. Once your child is showing signs of physical readiness, or you bring it to a staff member's attention, we will discuss a plan for potty training and provide you with a copy of our 'Potty Training Policies'. Be sure to communicate with us daily on your child's progress. You must provide diapers and wipes for at least one week. There is storage in the bathroom for these items. Please do not send pull-ups unless your child is using the toilet on a regular basis.

Sunscreen

During the spring and summer, you have the option of purchasing daycare sunscreen at a cost of \$2.50/month during May, June, July and August. The sunscreen provided will have a valid expiry date and be kept at the daycare. If you choose to provide your own sunscreen, a charge of \$2.50/month will apply for gloves.

You MUST fill out a sunscreen consent form giving the staff permission to administer any sunscreen to your child.

Rest Time

In accordance with Licensing, we will provide the opportunity for each child in our daycare and infant and toddler programs to rest. You will need to provide a crib or play pen sheet and a blanket for your child; these items will be sent home when required for washing and need to be returned. It is important to keep in regular communication with the staff members and provide them with your child's sleep schedule and needs. Children who do not nap are allowed to engage in quiet activities. The sleeping children are allowed to continue to sleep according to their age and individual needs.

Snack/Mealtimes and Nutrition

Breakfast, lunch and two snacks are the responsibility of the parent. We encourage you to follow Canada's Food Guide and make healthy choices. Upon arrival, lunch kits are placed in the fridge.

You will be required to provide a written document for the daycare with any allergies your child may have. If there are any changes, we must be notified immediately to ensure the health and safety of all the children. Your child will bring home any food that they did not eat that day so you can see what they consumed. Please do not send candy, pop or chewing gum to the daycare. Utensils are provided, please send a water bottle.

Guidance and Discipline

We believe that children are unique individuals and recognize that every child is their own character. It is our responsibility as caregivers to provide children with positive self-image, independence, problem solving skills and enhanced self-esteem.

Discovery World will follow the guidance strategies established in the BC Ministry of Health Services handbook 'Guiding Children's Behavior'. The handbook can be viewed at www.health.gov.bc.ca. Strategies include:

- Setting reasonable behavior expectations that are consistent with the Centre's philosophy.
- Create a developmentally appropriate environment.
- Respecting children's personality and individuality.
- Promoting child-initiated problem solving.
- Active listening.
- Giving children time to respond.
- Redirecting child interests/energy.
- Establish positive, clear, and consistent limits.
- Stating the limits in a positive way.
- Stating what is expected rather than posing questions.
- Giving 3 warnings before a reasonable developmentally appropriate consequence.
- Using natural and logical consequences.
- Acknowledging the child's feelings and needs.
- Reinforce appropriate behaviors.
- Modeling appropriate behavior.
- Preventing incidences before they occur.
- Getting down to the child's level when interacting with them.
- Provide choices that are real and appropriate.

*Corporal punishment, physical discipline, isolation, and verbal threats are not acceptable and will not be used

under any circumstances.

Starbright Children's Development Centre

At Discovery World Daycare we work closely with this development centre to ensure we are meeting the needs of the child. Early recognition and prompt intervention programs can prevent or reduce the consequences of disabling conditions, particularly in young children. Starbright supports the growth and development of children with exceptional developmental needs through early intervention services, and empower their families through information and education to meet the immediate, transitional, and long-term needs of their child.

Care Plans

When a child demonstrates needs which exceed the ability/training of our staff and current program, whether it be due to physical, emotional, developmental, social or behavioral difficulties, parents/guardians will be contacted and referred to appropriate health care professionals. Once a health care professional has diagnosed the difficulty and offered recommendations, parents/guardians and care providers will work together to develop and implement a course of action. Care plans will be reviewed at least once a year by staff and parents/guardians.

Okanagan College/Pacific Rim ECE Students

College students are accepted into our program to further their learning and gain knowledge within our community.

Reporting Abuse and Neglect

The daycare is required to report all cases of suspected child abuse and neglect to the proper authorities, Ministry for Children and Families. Any observations, documentation, disclosures, and reports will remain confidential.

Confidentiality

All information is confidential and will be stored accordingly. This information will be shared with authorized parties on a need-to-know basis. If your child has an illness or injury, the information will only be disclosed to the parent/guardian of that child.

COVID-19

Discovery World Daycares [Daily Health Check](#) can be found on our website.

For updated information, please refer to [BC Centre for Disease Control \(bccdc.ca\)](https://www.bccdc.ca)

Medical Emergency

In the event of a medical emergency a staff member will administer first aid treatment. A staff member will then access your child's emergency card to confirm medical information and consent for transport. You will be contacted immediately and made aware of the incident that occurred.

If your child is taken by ambulance due to an injury, a staff member will record the name of the paramedic taking your child, where they will be taking them and how to contact the parent/guardian. Your child's emergency card will be sent with the paramedics with your contact information. Please note that a staff may not be able to ride with your child in the ambulance and it is your responsibility to cover any cost associated with the ambulance.

In the Event of an Emergency

The staff will conduct monthly emergency fire drills and a yearly evacuation drill to ensure the children are aware of the procedures.

In the event that the building must be evacuated, staff will lead the children safely to the parking lot of the C3 Church located at 2410 Ethel St, Kelowna BC V1Y 5G6 | DW cell phone: 250-808-9508

In the event that the neighborhood is evacuated, staff will lead the children safely to Parkinson Rec Center located at 1800 Parkinson Way, Kelowna BC V1Y 8G7 office 250-469-8800 | DW cell phone: 250-808-9508

In the event of a disaster in the community, staff will take the children safely to private residence at 10752 Hallam Drive in Lake Country, BC V4V 1P1 | DW cell phone: 250-808-9508

A parent/guardian will be notified to pick up their child ASAP upon arrival at the emergency destination.

DISCOVERY WORLD DAYCARE LTD. – CONTACT INFORMATION

Discovery World Daycare Address:
870 Francis Avenue
Kelowna, BC V1Y 5G5
Phone: 250.762.9508
E-Mail : info@discoveryworlddaycare.ca

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DK | Owner/Manager