

Britannia Preschool Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2020-JUNE 2021

Preschool Phone: 604-718-5838



Hello We want to send a warm welcome to all families. We look forward to having an excellent year with you and your children.



Our playroom and curriculum are based on Learning Through Play. Our environment is set up with play centres for children to move freely through and engage with others in social interactions with their peers, facilitated by our Licenced Early Childhood Educators. We know that if children enjoy and participate in their learning, they become lifelong learners.

Thank you for reading and adopting the agreement to our protocols regarding our approach to safety due to the covid 19 pandemic. We ask that families continue to keep their personal/family bubbles small and stay home when sick.

TEACHERS' BIO'S



HEAD TEACHER

Vasi Petoussis has been working at Britannia since 1996. She is licensed in Early Childhood Education, and has her Infant/Toddler and Special Education Certification. Vasi is a professional artist who has worked in the film industry in various departments. She has also performed larger-scale set installations for special events and was an artisan of plaster, faux bois, and decorative painting. Her strong desire to inspire creativity within the lives of young children led her to launch a mobile arts service which enabled her to act as an Arts Programmer within a variety of community centres and elementary schools. Presently, Vasi continues to encourage creative development while spending her personal time creating new works from her Vancouver home. Her work has been showcased internationally.

CHILDREN ACTIVITY LEADERS

Monica Van Schaik started working at Britannia Preschool in 2002 and loves her work very much. Monica has an ECE degree from Chile where she worked for one year in the Children's Hospital with infants and toddlers. She is a licensed Early Childhood Educator and Special Needs certified. She enjoys languages and traveling, and is fluent in Spanish and conversational Portuguese

Michelle Chenoweth graduated from college in 1995 with her Early Childhood Education Certificate. Following that she worked in daycare, was a nanny and worked at Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Headstart Program. She started her Child Care work with Britannia in January 2000. She first worked at Grandveiw Daycare and Out of School Care Programs. After having two children she moved permanently to the Britannia Out of School Care Program. Michelle looks forward to working with all the families, children and staff at Britannia Preschool.

SENIOR SUPERVISOR

Lorraine Evans has been working in Child Care over 20 years and currently is the Senior Supervisor for the Britannia Child Care program (OSC & Preschool). She completed the Child & Youth Care Counselling (CYCC) program at Douglas College, 3rd year CYCC courses at the University of Victoria and has her ECEA license. She has completed countless hours of professional development courses in the CYCC and ECE field. Lorraine has been at Britannia for many years and is honored to work in such a diverse, exciting and ever-changing environment.

To make any changes to registration, get information on billing, subsidy or any other enquiries, please contact Lorraine at 604.718.5843 or by email at lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca

ART HISTORY CURRICULUM

Our program will include the exploration of Artists Throughout History. By using hands on experimentation and exploration of a variety of materials, techniques, ideas and information, we will experience styles developed by influential artists throughout history. Children will experience arts and culture from around the world, and practice creativity, and freedom of artistic expression.



DROP OFF TIME

We have posted signs on the ground leading into the entrance of the Preschool room. We ask you to follow the markers posted. After gradual entry, the parent/caregiver will not be able to enter the room. For gradual entry (Sept 8-18), the child's parent/caregiver will be required to wear a mask while in the program and maintain social distancing of 2m or 6ft. All persons entering the room will be required to wash their hands with soap and water.

GRADUAL ENTRY SCHEULE

SEPTEMBER 8-18 (1-hour class)

Morning group A = 8:30 am to 9:30 am
Morning group B = 9:50 am to 10:50 am
Afternoon group A = 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Afternoon group B = 1:20 pm to 2:20 pm

PICK-UP TIMES (after gradual entry)

Pick-up times are very busy. **Staff will bring your child to you at the entry. We ask that you social distance, waiting 2m or 6 ft from each other (use the ground decal markers).**

AM Class ends at 11:00 am
PM Class ends at 2:30 pm

Ensure that you pick-up your child promptly. Unfortunately, we have a very tight schedule between classes, the extra cleaning/sanitizing between classes due to covid19 and transition to the Out of School Care Program in the PM.



COMMUNICATION

To advise us of any changes in your child's pick-up person or to communicate any other important information regarding your child, please leave a message at **604.718.5838**.

FIND US ON THE WEB @



<https://www.britanniacentre.org/services/licensedchildcare/britannia/articles/375.php>

ART FILE

Check your child's personal art file for any art that has been left behind to dry. It is located outside the child care entry on the bench.



PRESCHOOL CLOSURES

CLOSED ALL STATUARY HOLIDAYS 2020/2021

Labour Day	Monday, September 7
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11
Family Day	Monday, February 15
Good Friday	Friday, April 2
Easter Monday	Monday, April 5
Victoria Day	Monday, May 24

Winter Break December 21 –January 1
First Day Back Monday January 4, 2021

Spring Break March 15 to 26
First day back Monday March 29, 2021

CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES/CLASSES

In order to maintain a high-quality program, we will be closed for program development /maintenance for specific classes to plan and prepare accordingly.

CLOSED

Thr	October 22	PM class only
Thr	April 22	AM class only

CLOSED for Open House

Fri	February 5	AM/PM class
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INDOOR & OUTDOOR PLAYTIME

We do take the children into our backyard play space daily throughout the year, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for rainy/cold weather. Pack indoor shoes and a change of clothes, should they get wet/soiled!

END OF YEAR

GRADUATION PARTY JUNE 2021

LAST DAY OF CLASSES June 24/25

Each class will have individual graduation days. We ask each family to bring something to share for the potluck. Since the teachers will be focusing on hosting this celebration, we ask that a parent or guardian join each child at our Grad potluck party. Please note the time change for each class.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24
AM class @ 9:30-11:00
PM class @12:30-2:00

FRIDAY, JUNE 25
AM class @9:30-11:00
PM class @12:30-2:00

STUDENTS/VOLUNTEERS

Our Centre welcomes students from several post-secondary schools to do their practicum learning and training within the Preschool program. It is our ongoing mission to actively participate in the

development of high-quality Early Childhood Educators. All students and volunteers undergo a thorough criminal record and health check prior to acceptance into our facility. Their bios are posted at the preschool entrance. *We have temporarily suspended all students/volunteers' visits. We will review this as the situation with covid19 changes.*

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

If you would like to find out more about the progress of your child or any other concerns or questions, please call **604.718.5838** and a PS teacher will connect with you at a mutually agreed upon time via phone.

HEALTH POLICY

Ensure your child is well to take part in our everyday activities at the preschool. ***If your child has been diagnosed with a particular illness to which others may have been exposed, inform the preschool teachers as soon as possible.***

If you have any questions/concerns, phone the Preschool at **604-718-5838** or contact the Community Health Office at **604-675.3980** or call **811**.

Children and adults who are sick, are not permitted to attend child care or enter the room at any time. We ask that families do a health assessment at home for any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat and painful swallowing
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea
- Nausea & Vomiting

Less Common, but symptoms can also include

- Stuffy nose
 - Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
 - Dizziness, confusion
 - Abdominal pain
 - Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes
- *Average normal body temperature taken orally is about 37°C or 98.6°F.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe. Sometimes people with COVID-19 have mild illness, but their symptoms may suddenly worsen in a few days. People infected with COVID-19 may also experience gastrointestinal symptoms like diarrhea, nausea and vomiting a few days after the onset of the above symptoms. If you only have gastrointestinal symptoms you may not have COVID-19. (CDC website)

CHILDREN OR STAFF WHO DEVELOP SYMPTOMS MUST STAY HOME AND SELF-ISOLATE FOR 10 DAYS FROM SYMPTOMS ONSET.



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HOLIDAYS PROJECTS

We celebrate different occasions throughout the school year such as Mother and Father's Day. Due to different circumstances and family structures, we present these activities on an individual basis. We introduce the activity as making gifts for anyone who is important to them. So, the child can decide who they want to make the activity for.

VALUES OF PLAY

Play has a unique meaning for each individual child. All children have the extraordinary ability to learn new skills, develop their unique strengths, gain autonomy, enhance their critical and creative thinking, and reach their full potential.

Play is the vehicle for learning about the world and the environment around them. Play is the way in which children take part in their own growth and development; it is the very essence in which they celebrate learning.

HEALTH BULLETIN

We are a **NUT FREE ZONE!**
Please ensure that all food items entering the Preschool **Do Not Contain Nuts.**



We have several children with life-threatening allergies to nuts. Remember that many items like candies, crackers, breads etc. may contain traces of nuts or nut oils, so please check packaging.

If your children (or their siblings) eat peanut butter they may get peanuts on their breath, hands or stroller etc. Ensure their hands are cleaned and their teeth are brushed. Even the smell of peanuts can cause an allergic person to have an anaphylactic reaction.

Avoid the following food items when preparing your child's snack as they can be a choking hazard:

- Popcorn * Gummy Bears * Marshmallows
- These below items, unless cut lengthwise
- Hot Dogs* Grapes* Cherry Tomatoes
- Baby Carrots

Send your child with a water bottle and utensils.

ARTS UMBRELLA



At this time, we are not sure whether the arts umbrella program will take place in January 2021. We will let families know once a decision has been made.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

NORTH COMMUNITY HEALTH OFFICE
1669 East Broadway; Ph: 604-675-3980

DENTAL SERVICES: Start preventive dental care early and visit the FREE dental program.

HEARING & VISION: If you are concerned about your child's hearing, vision, speech or language skills, contact your community health nurse at **604-215-4700 local 2241**. A speech/language pathologist, preschool teacher or family doctor can refer your child for testing.

FEES

Fees are processed on the first of the month.

One month's written notice (email is good), on the last of the calendar month, is required when withdrawing or one month's fee payment in lieu of one month's notice.

AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE BENEFIT (Subsidy)

We encourage all families to apply for the Affordable Child Care Benefits (ACCB). Visit the Affordable Child Care Benefit online platform to see if you qualify at

<https://myfamilyservices.gov.bc.ca/s/estimator>

Email the Senior Supervisor for the Child Care Arrangement form, which is required when submitting your subsidy application. It only takes 30 minutes to do the application online.

Affordable Child Care Benefits,
Toll Free at 1 888 338-6622

<https://myfamilyservices.gov.bc.ca>

Senior Supervisor Lorraine Evans at 604.718.5843 or lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca

NEED HELP WITH YOUR SUBSIDY?

Call or email **Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre**, Monday through Saturday from 9am-5pm.
Contact: GRACE PAN , gpan@wstcoast.org
604-709-5699 ext 246.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

Please advise us if you have changed any of your personal information on file for your child since you originally registered:

Such information includes:

- Address/ phone numbers (changes or additions)
- New persons authorized to pick up your child
- Immunization Records
- Dentists, Doctors
- Allergies
- Emergency contacts



To make a change see a Preschool Teacher!



Appendix B. Protocol for child or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 in a child care setting

Child with Symptoms of COVID-19	Staff with Symptoms of COVID-19
<p>IF CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:</p> <p>Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.</p>	<p>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:</p> <p>Staff must be excluded from work, stay home and self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND until all symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.</p>
<p>IF CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT CHILD CARE:</p> <p>Staff must take the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify a staff member to supervise the child. 2. Identified staff member should immediately separate the symptomatic child from others in a supervised area until they can go home. 3. Contact the child's parent or caregiver to pick them up right away. 4. Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from the ill child. If this is not possible, the staff member may use a mask if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth. 5. Provide the child with tissues, and support as necessary so they can practice respiratory hygiene. 6. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. 7. Avoid touching the child's body fluids. If you do, wash your hands. 8. Once the child is picked up, wash your hands. 9. Clean and disinfect the space where the child was separated and any areas used by the child (e.g., bathroom, common areas). 10. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further advice. <p>Parents or caregivers must pick up their child promptly once notified that their child is ill.</p>	<p>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT WORK:</p> <p>Staff should go home right away where possible.</p> <p>If unable to leave immediately, the symptomatic staff person should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Separate themselves into an area away from others. 2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. 3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait for a replacement or to be picked up. 4. Remaining staff must clean and disinfect the space where staff was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., office, bathroom, common areas). 5. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further advice.
<p>If a child or staff member is assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, they may return to child care once symptoms resolve.</p>	



1. STAY HOME WHEN SICK

All children and staff with common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory diseases must stay home and self-isolate.



2. HAND HYGIENE

Everyone should wash their hands more often!

Thorough hand washing with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.



3. RESPIRATORY AND PERSONAL HYGIENE

Cover your coughs.

Do not touch your face.

No sharing of food, drinks, or personal items.



4. PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND MINIMIZING PHYSICAL CONTACT

Spread children out to different areas.

Take them outside more often.

Stagger lunch times. Incorporate individual activities.

Remind children, "Hands to Yourself!"



5. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least twice a day.

General cleaning of the centre should occur at least once a day.

Use common cleaning and disinfectant products.