

Britannia Preschool Newsletter

Tue Sep 6, 2022 to Wed Jun 28, 2023

Preschool Phone: 604-718-5838



Welcome



We look forward to having an excellent year with you and your children.

Our playroom and curriculum is 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 (ECE). We know that if children enjoy and participate in their learning, they become lifelong learners.

TEACHERS' BIOS

HEAD TEACHER

Vasi Petoussis has been working at Britannia since 1996. She is licensed in Early Childhood Education (ECE), 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. 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. Vasi will be away until November 2022.



CHILDREN ACTIVITY LEADERS

Monica Van Schaik started working at Britannia Preschool in 2002 and loves her work. 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 ECE Certificate. 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 Grandview 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.



FIND US ON THE WEB @

<https://www.britanniacentre.org/services/licensed-childcare/britannia/articles/375.php>



Amnah Chohan is a substitute teacher at Britannia Preschool. She has been in the ECE field for 13 years, and graduated from Vancouver Career college in 2009 with an ECE certificate and have been working in the field since. Prior to working at Britannia preschool, she worked at Mount Pleasant Child Care Society for 8 years. Aside from working with children, her two biggest passions in life are travel, health and fitness. Amnah is looking forward to working with all the children, families and staff at Britannia preschool.



Tina Wu, is a substitute teacher for the Britannia Child Care programs and has her Early Childhood Education Assistant certificate (ECEA) license. She is currently pursuing the full ECE certificate, studying at Burnaby Community and Continuing Education. Tina has three years experience working in a daycare with children aged three to five years old. She enjoys working with children and is very happy to join the Britannia family.



SENIOR SUPERVISOR

Lorraine Evans has been working in Child Care for over 25 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 is currently completing her ECE certificate and considers herself a lifelong learner. She has completed countless hours of professional development courses in the CYCC and ECE field. Lorraine 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

WHAT TO BRING TO PRESCHOOL (LABEL ALL YOUR CHILD'S ITEMS.)

- Zip lock bag with a change of clothes that will stay at the centre
- Backpack/bag
- Change of cloths
- Send a nut free snack
- Water bottle
- Dress for the weather (we will be playing in the rain)
- Comfortable footwear to run, jump and play
- Sun screen your child at home prior to coming to preschool
- Special comfort toys/items are allowed

PROGRAM HOURS

Morning Classes

Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-11:00am (2.5 hrs)
Tue/Thu 8:30-12:00am (3.5 hrs)

Afternoon Classes

Mon/Wed/Fri 11:45-3:15pm (3.5 hrs)
Tue/Thu 12:45-3:15pm (2.5 hrs)

DROP OFF

All persons entering the room will be required to wash their hands with soap and water.

PICK-UP TIMES (after gradual entry)

Pick-up times are very busy. **Staff will bring your child to you at the entry.** If you want to speak to a staff, please come inside the room to speak in private.

Morning Classes

Mon/Wed/Fri ENDS @ 11:00am

Tue/Thu ENDS @ 12:00am

Afternoon Classes

END @ 3:15pm

Ensure that you pick-up your child promptly. Unfortunately, we have a very tight schedule between classes, and transition for the Out of School Care Program happens in the PM.

HEALTH BULLETIN

We are a **NUT FREE ZONE!**

Please ensure that all food items entering the Preschool **Do Not Contain Nuts and Tree 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.

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**.

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.

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.

CLOSURES

CLOSED ALL STATUARY HOLIDAYS 2022/2023

Labour Day	Monday, September 5
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Friday September 30
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10
Remembrance Day	Friday, November 11
Stat for Jan 1	Monday, January 2
Family Day	Monday, February 20
Good Friday	Friday, April 7
Easter Monday	Monday, April 10
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22
Winter Break	December 19-30
First Day Back	Tuesday January 3, 2023
Spring Break	March 13 to 24
First day back	Monday March 27, 2023

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 for staff training professional day

Fri	November 25, 2022	AM/PM class
Thu	January 26, 2023	PM class
Thu	April 13, 2023	AM class

LAST DAY OF PRESCHOOL CLASSES

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28, 2023

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 the rainy/cold weather. Pack indoor shoes and a change of clothes, should they get wet/soiled!

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 do undergo a thorough criminal record and health check prior to being accepted into our facility. Their bios are posted at the preschool entrance.

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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PEDAGOGY NETWORK (ECPN)

We will be working Pedagogist [April Martin](#). According to [ECPN](#), "Pedagogist are vital provocateurs who enact situated, dialogical and transformative pedagogical projects in early childhood centres. They enact these projects by co-constructing curriculum with educators and children. Pedagogists collectively engage with the ECPN pedagogical declarations"

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 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:



To make a change see a Preschool Teacher!

DID YOU KNOW THAT GLITTER IS MADE FROM PLASTIC!

- Glitter is a micro plastic that is difficult to recycle
- Glitter ends up in the drains and then in the oceans and rivers
- Micro plastic is dangerous for sea life and birds

Britannia Child Care decided to end the use of glitter in our art projects to help our sea creatures and birds!

GIFTS

We are very grateful to all our families for appreciating the care we provide.

Unfortunately Britannia has a gift receiving policy which states all **staff are NOT allowed monetary gifts or gift cards.**



HEALTH POLICY

Ensure your child is well enough to take part in our everyday activities at the preschool; otherwise, it is best for your child to stay home and rest. We want to prevent other children and staff from getting sick.



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 Senior Supervisor **604 718-5843** or contact the Community Health Office at **604-675.3980**.

If children have an illness that prevents them from participating or being comfortable in normal program activities, or if staff cannot provide the care required, children will be considered too ill to attend child care. Children must remain home if diagnosed with a contagious disease. Children are allowed back to the Centre once the Medical Health Officer says it is safe for them to return.

Parent/Guardians are required to keep their children home if they display any of the following symptoms:

- Pain – any complaints of unexplained or undiagnosed pain.
- Acute cold with fever, runny nose and eyes, coughing and sore throat.
- Difficulty breathing – wheezing or a persistent cough.
- Fever - 100° F/38.3° C or greater accompanied by general symptoms such as listlessness. This may be an early sign of illness that requires a physician's attention.
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing.
- Infected skin or eyes or an undiagnosed rash.
- Headache and stiff neck (should see a physician).
- Unexplained diarrhea or loose stool, nausea, vomiting or abdominal cramps. These symptoms may indicate a bacterial or viral gastrointestinal infection which is very easily passed from one child to another. Nausea and vomiting may be an early sign of illness that requires a doctor's attention.
- Severe itching of body and scalp.
- Children with known or suspected communicable diseases

A receiving staff member who notices any of these symptoms when a child arrives will ask that the child be taken home or to a doctor for a note confirming that the child is healthy and not infectious.

If a child is showing other symptoms of ill health, the parent or guardian may be asked to provide the Centre with a doctor's note clarifying the child's health. Children with diagnosed communicable diseases will be excluded.