

Britannia Preschool Newsletter

Tuesday September 7, 2021 to
Tuesday June 28, 2022 session
Preschool Phone: 604-718-5838



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.

We will continue to monitor and keep you updated on the provincial covid protocols for child care. 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. 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 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 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 (Sept7-17), 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 SCHECULE

September 7-10

Mornings 9:00-10:30 am
Afternoons 12:30-2:00 pm
(1 ½ hours class)

September 13-17

Mornings 9:00-11:00 am
Afternoons 12:30-2:30 pm
(2 hour class)

REGULAR HOURS BEGIN

September 20 onward

Mornings 9:00-11:30 am
Afternoons 12:30-3:00 pm
(2.5 hour class)

FIND US ON THE WEB @



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



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 11:30 am

PM Class ends at 3:00 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**.

PRESCHOOL CLOSURES

CLOSED ALL STATUARY HOLIDAYS 2021/2022

Labour Day	Monday, September 6
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 11
Remembrance Day	Thursday, November 11
Stat for Jan 1	Monday, January 3
Family Day	Monday, February 21
Good Friday	Friday, April 15
Easter Monday	Monday, April 18
Victoria Day	Monday, May 23

Winter Break December 20-31

First Day Back Tuesday January 4, 2022

Spring Break March 14 to 25

First day back Monday March 28, 2022

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 19, 2021 **AM/PM class**

CLOSED for Open House

Fri February 4, 2022 **PM class**

CLOSED for Program development

Thu April 7, 2022 **PM class**

LAST DAY OF PRESCHOOL CLASSES TUESDAY JUNE 28, 2021

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!

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.

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 & ILLNESS POLICY - taken directly from -

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

According to the BCCDC "The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold. COVID-19 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. Research shows that some symptoms are more likely related to COVID-19 than others."

Key symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing

Other symptoms may include:

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



Go to an urgent care clinic or emergency department if you:

- find it hard to breathe
- have chest pain
- can't drink anything
- feel very sick
- feel confused

COVID-19 symptoms in children

Children may show COVID-19 symptoms differently than adults. For example, fatigue may show in children as poor feeding, decreased activity, or changes in behaviour.

Take your child to your nearest emergency department or call 911 if they:

- are having difficulty breathing
- have blue lips or skin, or appears very pale
- have red and/or swollen lips or tongue
- are coughing excessively, particularly with a fever
- are vomiting excessively, especially if there is blood in the vomit
- have diarrhea and vomiting, is not producing tears, and has not urinated for several hours
- have a high fever, appears very sleepy, and have not improved with acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil).
- are under three months of age and has a fever of 38 degrees C (100.4 degrees F) or greater
- have pain or pressure in the chest that does not go away
- there is new confusion
- are unable to wake or stay awake
- have severe abdominal pain
- have a spreading rash

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

Winter (January-March 2022)

Mondays: Creative Dance – Jan 10-Mar 7
(8 weeks, no class Feb 21)

Thursdays: Visual Arts – Jan 13-Mar 3 (8 weeks)

Spring (April-June 2022)

Mondays: Visual Arts – Apr 4-Jun 6
(8 weeks, no class Apr 18, May 23)

Thursdays: Creative Dance – Apr 7-May 26
(8 weeks)

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!



HAVE A GREAT DAY!

