



Lessard Community Playschool

Where learning begins....



PARENT HANDBOOK 2021 - 2022

17404 – 57 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T6M 1K4
Phone: 780-686-4201
Email: lessardplayschool@gmail.com
Website: www.lessardplayschool.ca

Mailing Address:
PO Box 78129
RPO Callingwood
Edmonton, AB T5T 6A1

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Welcome to Lessard Community Playschool!

A WORD FROM OUR TEACHER

Welcome to Lessard Community Playschool! I am thrilled to be your child's playschool teacher. My name is Jennifer Foo (Miss Jen). As a mom of two fabulous children, I have experienced the best that playschool has to offer. I am committed to providing an excellent playschool experience for your child. One that will foster a love of learning in each student and will become a basis for the many years of school ahead!

OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Lessard Playschool, we believe young children learn best through play. As children engage in play in a safe and welcoming setting, they grow and develop socially, emotionally, and cognitively. They are able to become confident through exploration of the activities and routines at playschool; crafts, daily calendar, show and share, circle time, snack time, gymnasium time, music, and centre time are all an important part of your child's growth. We strive to ensure that your child enjoys their time with us and looks forward to playing at school each and every day!

Lessard Community Playschool is a program offered by the Lessard Community League, which is incorporated under Alberta's Societies Act. We are a non-profit, parent co-operative whereby all excess funds are put back into the playschool. As this is a cooperative, please remember involvement is needed from all parents/guardians to make each and every year a success.

Although we are a parent co-op, we do not require parent roster days where you must volunteer in the classroom. Instead, we have qualified Teacher's Assistants in each classroom. Parents are welcome to be involved in their children's learning experience at playschool, through your committee position (details to follow) and occasional volunteer opportunities. Should you wish to contribute in other ways, please speak to the teacher.

Lessard is a licensed playschool subject to education, health, fire and safety regulations and inspections. We have a Parent Advisory Committee who volunteers their time to work with the staff and ensures the involvement of all parents.

PLAYSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our programs are for registered participants. Therefore, casual or drop-in participants cannot be accommodated. Class start date will be September 7, 2021 and the last day of classes will be June 17, 2022.

Children must be FULLY TOILET TRAINED before they can start the program (See Bathroom Policy).

*3 & 4-year-old Playschool Program: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am – 11:15 am

*There are a limited number of spots for 2 year olds turning 3 by December 31st

4-year-old Preschool Program: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am – 11:30 am

We follow the Edmonton Public School calendar and are closed for all public holidays, Teachers Convention, Spring Break, Christmas Break and PD (Professional Development) Days. You can view the school calendar on their website at <https://www.epsb.ca/calendars/>

Please note: Christmas Vacation is December 13, 2021 – December 31, 2021 inclusive. School commences January 3, 2022.

DAILY CLASSROOM ROUTINE

1. Children Arrive
2. Children complete arrival routine (Name Tags, Shoes, Attendance)
3. Circle Time
4. Centres: craft, centres, play
5. Snack
6. Circle/Movement (Story, Songs, Movement)

All children should arrive by 9 am and be picked up promptly at dismissal time (11:15 T/Th, 11:30 M/W/F). Parents are responsible for their children until class begins. Due to COVID-19 protocol, students will be greeted at external door, where daily health check questions will be completed. If someone other than a parent/guardian is picking up your child, please make sure their name is listed in the registration form under the authorized section, and please inform the teacher by email.

The main doors to the playschool will be locked from the outside at approximately 9:15 am. This is for your child's safety. There is a doorbell above the boot rack that you may use if necessary.

Our Teaching Team consists of one Teacher and Teacher Assistant for each class. In the unlikely event that a substitute is not available, an adult with a vested interest (parent, grandparent, nanny) who is willing and able to fill in will be contacted.

BATHROOM POLICY

Children **must** be FULLY TOILET TRAINED and able to manage themselves **independently** in the bathroom. Children cannot attend playschool in training pants (e.g. pull ups etc.)

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The beginning of the year will be a staggered entry. Half of the students will attend each day, providing a quieter introduction to the classroom. Families will be notified of which day during the first week they are expected to attend. On their staggered entry day, a parent is welcome to stay with the student for the first portion of the morning, although is not required to do so. During that time, we will familiarize students with the location of their shoe bin, coat hook, and classroom areas. We will participate in a short circle time, followed by a craft. Once the student is ready for playtime, we will ask parents to leave and return at dismissal time. We ask that siblings not stay on staggered entry day.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED EVERYDAY?

Please ensure your child has the following items on the first day of school and each day thereafter:

- ✓ 1 pair of indoor running shoes (Velcro, non-marking soles) which will remain at school.
- ✓ 1 backpack (large enough to hold snack bag, and crafts sent home)
- ✓ 1 complete change of clothes in large Ziploc (shirt, pants, under garment & socks)
- ✓ 1 small snack bag to hold their snack.
- ✓ 1-2 small healthy snack(s): Please ensure all snacks are PEANUT AND TREE NUT FREE
- ✓ 1 water bottle

All items are to be taken home daily, with the exception of indoor shoes.
PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS CLEARLY WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

CLOTHING

Your child should be dressed in suitable play clothes for every class. During centre time, your child will paint, use glue, play in the water table and sand; therefore, please dress accordingly. Children will be provided the opportunity to play outdoors (weather permitting) so please provide rain boots, winter boots, snow pants, mittens, toques and sunscreen as per the season. **PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS CLEARLY WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

SNACKS

We ask that all children bring a small snack bag and label any containers, water cups etc. Remember this is a snack not a meal. Snack time is approximately 15 minutes long. Teachers eat snack with students and model table behaviors. Lessard Playschool is a **peanut and tree nut free zone due to allergies.** Foods that pose a choking hazard must be cut lengthwise (grapes, cherry tomatoes).

Healthy Snack Ideas Popular with the Children (1-2 Items):

<i>Cheese Strings</i>	<i>Carrot/celery sticks</i>	<i>Goldfish Crackers</i>
<i>Babybel Cheese</i>	<i>Sausage Slices</i>	<i>Crackers</i>
<i>Yogurt Tubes</i>	<i>Turkey Pepperoni Sticks</i>	<i>Pretzels</i>
<i>Applesauce</i>	<i>Granola Bar</i>	<i>Mini Muffins</i>
<i>Fruit Cups</i>	<i>Bear Paws</i>	<i>Rice Krispie Squares</i>
<i>Fruit cut up</i>		<i>Rice Pudding</i>

CLASS PARTIES

Due to COVID-19 protocols, class parties will be held during class time and will not include family participation. Students will celebrate seasons and holidays such as Halloween and Christmas. We will update this policy should the COVID-19 situation change during the school year.

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure the Playschool maintains a quality program at a reasonable cost, the parent(s) of each child in the program have the following responsibilities:

1. Full Payment of Monthly Fees.
2. Maintain a current community league membership.
3. Ensure your child arrives on time and is prepared.
4. Ensure your child is picked up on time.
5. Check email and child's backpack for communication daily.
6. If your child is being dropped off or picked up by someone other than yourself, they must be listed on the "Authorized Individuals" and may be required to show proof of ID.
7. Option to attend Playschool Parent Advisory Committee Meetings.
8. Responsible for a Parent Advisory Committee OR Playschool Committee position unless you have chosen to OPT out.
9. Participate in Fundraising unless you have chosen to OPT out.
10. Parents need to ensure their contact information is always current and up-to-date and inform staff of any changes. We use a variety of communication methods to get information to you in a timely manner.
11. Ensure you communicate any concerns with the Teacher(s).

COLD WEATHER POLICY

Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather. We will not go outside in weather colder than -15°C.

We will follow the regular school systems lead should a snow day be called, and classes cancelled. Please check communication methods regularly for updates.

BIRTHDAYS

We would like to honor each child's birthday by giving a special crown, singing "Happy Birthday" and allowing the birthday child to choose a "prize" from the treasure chest. If you are opposed to this, please let the Teacher know as soon as possible. Summer birthdays are celebrated in June.

PARENTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Due to COVID-19 protocol, we will minimize parental presence in the classroom. We eagerly anticipate a return to more normal routines when parents are welcome to participate in special events and field trips with our students.

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

In the case of inappropriate behaviours such as hurting others, being destructive, failing to follow directions, an effort will be made to verbalize and model positive behaviour for the student. This helps to create a positive environment where students feel safe and cared for.

Should the behaviour continue, the teachers may use any of the following behaviour management strategies as the situation warrants:

1. Redirection to another activity or toy. Students are encouraged to use their words politely and cooperate with their peers.
2. Take a breath. The child is calmly encouraged to take a break. The child will be encouraged to join the rest of the group and try again when they are ready to demonstrate acceptable behaviour.
3. Talk it out. Teacher will discuss the situation and action with the student, and work on possible solutions together.
4. If a child's behavior is continuously or repeatedly disruptive, the parents will be asked to work with the teacher and Lessard Coordinator to achieve an appropriate solution. Aggressive, physically abusive, or verbally abusive behavior will NOT be tolerated.

Parents may be called to pick up their child if the behavior is putting themselves or others at risk. If a child's behavior is a continuous or recurring problem, or if a child is too immature and disruptive to class, the child will be withdrawn from the Playschool program.

CHILD ILLNESS

Please text (780-686-4201) or email (lessardplayschool@gmail.com) **before** 9 am if your child is unable to attend that day or will be away. We appreciate the notice, so we are not delaying circle time as we wait for your child.

Families are required to follow the COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist (for children under 18). Students must answer the daily questions before attending school each day. Please help keep our playschool community safe by following the current health guidelines.

[*COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist attached](#)

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE

Under **NO** circumstances will the staff give out any medication to a child while the child is at Playschool. It is the parents' responsibility to administer prescription and non-prescription medication. We recommend that any child who has asthma or severe allergies receive their medication PRIOR to coming to class.

EMERGENCY medications can be administered ONLY if the following documentation is provided:

- a. Written consent from the parent.
- b. Medication is in its original labelled container.
- c. It is administered according to the labelled directions.
- d. If any medication is administered the following procedure will be followed:
 - Document the type of medication, time it was given, amount that was given, and the name of the person who administered the medication.
 - The teacher will contact the parents or emergency contact to advise that the medication was administered.
 - The teacher will advise the Lessard Community Program Coordinator. They will then determine what further steps are required.
- e. If medication is left on the playschool premises, it must be stored in a container that is not accessible to children. The container shall remain locked, unless the medication is needed in emergency situations.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips may be planned throughout the year. Any off-site activities are planned well in advance and parents will be notified through the newsletter. Each parent will need to sign a field trip permission form for their child to participate which will include details of the field trip as well as an opportunity to volunteer. Siblings and unregistered children are not permitted during in-class field trips and off-site class field trips. You will be responsible to drop off and pick up your child from the field trip location.

*No field trips will be planned during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby minimizing exposure to greater community members.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

There is a possibility of unexpected closures beyond our control in the case of extreme weather, staff illnesses and no substitute available, building issues etc. In addition, school closures due to COVID-19 may occur at any point throughout the year. You will be electronically notified.

Emergency procedures (map and steps to take) are outlined and posted in the classroom for your information. We have one emergency "practice" fire drill every month throughout the year per program.

Children will be relocated next door to:
Centennial Elementary School
17420 - 57 Avenue Edmonton, AB
Phone: 780-481-5590

FUNDRAISING

School fees do not cover the program needs in full. The remaining funds needed are raised through fundraisers run during the school year. Playschool fundraising initiatives will be discussed and decided on by the parent committee. A postdated bond cheque of \$275 will be submitted by each family. Near the end of the year, the amount of funds raised by each family will be calculated and the cheque you provided at the beginning of the year will be adjusted or returned if you met your \$275 obligation. You have the option to opt out of fundraising at the beginning of the year. If you prefer this option, you can indicate this in the registration package and your cheque will be cashed on October 1st.

Some past fundraisers included sales of raffle tickets, chocolate almonds, gingerbread houses, 50/50 tickets sales, etc.

We do not require families work Bingo shifts. Casino shifts are optional. We are always open to innovative fundraising ideas. Please communicate them to the Parent Committee.

PLAYSCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY/COMMITTEES

Lessard Community Playschool does not require roster days. As a parent co-operative playschool, we **DO** require families to contribute by taking on a position from the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) OR Playschool Committee list. Should the positions not be filled, we will assign parents to a position. Non-participation on the Parent Advisory Committee OR Playschool Committee will result in the \$200 Parent Committee cheque to be cashed. By sharing the responsibility of running our school we ensure that our playschool year is a successful one.

Parent Advisory Committee:

Chair/Community League Liaison

Vice Chair

Secretary

Fundraising Administrator

Registrar/Social Media

**Attend monthly PAC meetings*

Playschool Committees:

Craft Preparation

Morning Check-in Parent

Fundraising Team

Laundry & Bottles (Environmental)

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<p>Playschool Chair/ Community League Liaison <i>One required</i></p>	<p>Playschool Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees the proceedings of the committee. • Schedule and call meetings. • Prepares and distributes agenda prior to the meeting and chairs playschool meetings. • Prepares parent and teacher satisfaction surveys. <p>Community League Liaison:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and review minutes from the Lessard Community League Board. • Report any events or community information to the Committee.
<p>Vice-chair <i>One required</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Playschool Chair's role. • Chairs playschool meetings if Chair unavailable. • Attends Playschool Meetings.
<p>Secretary <i>One required</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completes and distributes minutes of meetings no later than one week after meeting. • Updates and maintains files of playschool documents to be forwarded to playschool regularly and upon end of term. • Attends Playschool Meetings.
<p>Fundraising Administrator <i>Two required</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets initially with teacher and team at the start of year to discuss goals and fundraisers for the year. • Communicates with Fundraising Team. • Available to count money after every fundraiser. • Comfortable with spreadsheets and provides a master list to teacher. • Attends Playschool Meetings (approx. 5 per year), and updates Team. • Notify parents of outstanding fundraising commitment twice in the year by individual letters (first notice midway Dec/Jan and second notice end of April).
<p>Registrar/Social Media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid with open house/welcome BBQ (if event is permitted and scheduled) • Update social media, including Facebook and Instagram, with community information/events relevant to playschool community. • Promote playschool program on social media, other mediums as applicable

PLAYSCHOOL COMMITTEES

<p>Fundraising Team <i>Two required October - November</i> <i>One required January – February</i> <i>One required March – April</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets initially with Fundraising Administrator, teacher, and team at the start of year to discuss goals and fundraisers. • Sets up and distributes the fundraiser among classes. • Collects funds with Fundraising Administrator. • Reconciles fundraiser and completes appropriate paperwork to forward to Fundraising Administrator.
<p>Laundry & Bottles (Environmental) <i>Two required 4-year-old program</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collects and washes any soiled laundry. • Ensures Bottles are taken to bottle depot for refund and provide refund receipt and money to playschool. • Assist with Environmental Needs.
<p>Craft Preparation <i>Two required 3 & 4-year-old program</i> <i>Two required 4-year-old program</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preps crafts provided by teaching staff in a timely fashion.
<p>Morning Check-in Parent <i>Minimum 4 needed per program</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greet families at door, one week of every four. • Ensure daily health check questions have been completed. • Take non-contact forehead temperature. • Sanitize hands. • Supervise students as they remove outdoor shoes and proceed downstairs to classroom.

FEES SUMMARY

At time of **REGISTRATION**, we need the following:

1. Submit completed [Registration Form](#) (all fields must be completed) and [PAD agreement](#) to lessardplayschool@gmail.com
2. **WAIT** for an email confirmation that your child has been accepted into the playschool class.
3. Once acceptance is confirmed, submit a non-refundable \$100 registration fee by e-transfer to coordinator@lessardcommunity.ca
4. More details regarding the beginning of the school year will be sent out by email in mid-August.

Methods of Payment accepted for school fees:

- a. Automatic Withdrawal for monthly payments (*Sept 1 – Jun 1*). Complete PAD form and include void cheque.
- b. EFT or cheque for **annual fee** amount dated September 1, 2021.
3 & 4-year-old program \$1400 OR 4-year-old program \$1800
- c. Bi-annual payments require two postdated cheques dated September 1, 2021 and February 1, 2022.
3 & 4-year-old program \$700 for Sept 1st and \$700 for Feb 1st
4 year-old-program \$900 Sept 1st and \$900 Feb 1st

To be collected in September 2021:

1. Community League Membership from Edmonton Community League (2021-22). Must provide proof of active membership card. Can be purchased online for \$35 at www.lessardcommunity.ca/memberships . Please note that community memberships expire at the end of August and ensure you are purchasing after September 1st.
2. \$275 fundraising deposit cheque post-dated May 1, 2022. This cheque will be returned to you if participation/commitment is fulfilled. If you choose to opt-out of fundraising, please date your cheque for October 1, 2021 at which time will be cashed.
3. \$200 parent committee participation deposit cheque post-dated May 1, 2022. This cheque will be returned to you if participation/commitment is fulfilled. If you choose to opt-out of the parent committee, please date your cheque for October 1, 2021 at which time will be cashed.

All EFT payments to coordinator@lessardcommunity.ca
All cheques made payable to Lessard Community League.

COMMUNITY LEAGUE MEMBERSHIPS

Lessard Community Playschool operates under the umbrella of the Lessard Community League. To have your child enrolled with our program, you must have either a Lessard Community League membership or a valid membership with another community league in Edmonton. Proof is required at time of registration or one can be purchased at that time. Price is \$35 for the family rate.

RETURNED CHEQUES

In the event of cheques returned due to non-sufficient funds (NSF), you will be required to resubmit the monthly fee and a \$25 service charge.

SUBSIDY

The Alberta Government offers a child subsidy for children who attend a licensed Preschool program. To see if you qualify, or for more information, please visit their website www.child.alberta.ca or call 1-866-714-5437.

REFUNDS AND WITHDRAWALS

One FULL month's written notice is required for any participant wishing to withdraw from the program. *For example, if you are withdrawing in April then we must receive written notice before March 1st.* There will be no refunds for partial months. You are required to send in writing your withdrawal request and reason; otherwise, your monthly payments will be cashed as scheduled. Fees are not refunded for absences due to illness, holidays, nor for the month of June.