



Waterloo Cooperative Preschool Program Statement Review Goals and Approaches

Waterloo Co-operative Preschool (WCP) embraces the pedagogy set out by collaborating materials and research that helps set the standards on high quality programming. We believe that "children are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential. They grow up in families with diverse social, cultural, and linguistic perspectives. Every child should feel that they belong, is a valuable contributor to their surroundings, and deserves the opportunity to succeed. When we recognize children as capable and curious, we are more likely to deliver programs and services that value and build on their strengths and abilities."

We follow and implement the newest research expressed in the document "[How Does Learning Happen?](#)", which asks educators to be attuned to what children know, what they wonder about, and their working theories about the world around them. Educators engage with, observe, and listen to children. They discuss with other educators, as well as with children and families and caregivers, the possibilities for children's further exploration in increasingly complex ways. All are co-learners, constructing knowledge together using the environment as a third teacher.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool promotes the health, safety, nutrition, and well-being of the children and families enrolled at the preschool.

Goals

- For the children to explore and navigate through an enticing and safe learning environment that promotes independence and sense of competence.
- To enable children to aid in delivery of safe choices and take part in routines that promote safety.
- To prevent accidents and increase health, safety, nutrition and well being of children.
- To educate children about health and safety concerns (e.g., sanitary issues, healthy food choices, safe decisions, rule-making,

- keeping feet on the floor) and to scaffold their learning.
- To actively support the group during washroom routine by listening to see if another staff needs help.

Approaches

- Design environments to be child-friendly, safely set up and well thought out. For example, toys, equipment, and materials should be placed within reach of children to extend learning or foster curiosity.
- Regular head counts (before leaving an area, transitions)
- Allow children to aid in set up and delivery. For example, provide materials needed to set up snack tables such as table cloths, tongs, and classroom materials.
- Encourage children to make safe choices and have intentional decisions and discussions. For example, use walking feet and gentle hands, hold the railing, etc.
- Create a daily flow that allows for proper hand washing and use of the toilet.
- Post a menu that contains healthy food choices based on Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide that respects culture and food sensitivities.
- Sing the "tap the wall" song to maintain safety from playground to classroom.
- Have children contribute to create rules.
- Follow rules and regulations set out by regulating bodies such as the Public Health Unit and other licensing bodies.
- Maintain a clean, healthy environment, following health policies, logging and cleaning toys.
- Actively supervise children and enforce volunteer supervision policies to ensure safety.
- Review all policies, allergy lists, ISP plans and procedures with all staff and volunteers prior to any shift.
- Document in the daily journal and in other logs any events or issues that affect the well-being of staff, students, parents, volunteers, and children.
- Think of ways to prevent exposure to allergens.
- Post allergies, preferences, and medication information for easy access and instruction, and keep copies in the classroom binder.
- Keep children who use Epi pens in the same group as the teacher with the backpack (if the group is ever split into more than one).

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool prioritizes positive and responsive interactions among the children, families, childcare providers, and staff.

Goals

- To build rapport and positive relationships with children and families.
- To operate as a cooperative preschool involving families, children, and staff in all aspects of programming.
- To focus on the strengths of all families, Board of Directors, and children as leaders.
- To enable the Board of Directors to actively participate in the operations.
- To provide opportunities for families to engage in a sense of community and belonging by offering events and opportunities to take part.

Approaches

- Get down to children's level and provide a warm welcome each day.
- Teachers meet with new families, have small group orientations, and assess individual needs prior to joining classes.
- Daily chats with parents at the beginning or end of class, or scheduled meetings.
- Support students in their learning objectives.
- Provide supervision to students and volunteers, who are never left alone with children.
- Show value towards children's contributions.
- Foster positive relationships by truly getting to know each child and responding to their needs. Provide individual attention and care by the use of active listening (can be responsive in use of observation), responding to cues, or by adding materials to enhance play and relationship.
- Encourage parents to participate and adopt our cooperative preschool philosophy.
- Treat all individuals with respect and appreciate diversity.
- Promote constructive interaction.
- Request feedback through annual AGM surveys, regular feedback surveys, and staff evaluation surveys.
- Host planned events such as Family Fun Night, Train Trip and Mother's Day Tea.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool encourages children to interact and communicate in a positive way, and supports their ability to self-regulate.

Goals

- Focus on and establish close, meaningful relationships that support intrinsic motives and decisions.
- Create an atmosphere of role modelling positive interactions with others, showing respectful, meaningful interactions, labelling feelings, and encouraging ideas.
- Enable children to communicate to the best of their ability – scaffold their understanding of positive, reciprocal relationships and friendships.

Approaches

- Feeling and friendship focus, practicing entrance to play skills.
- Predictable routine and structure and daily flow to promote self regulation.
- Planned and spontaneous activities to give children opportunities to practice new skills while mastering old ones.
- Use of picture cues to enable or aid in communication as needed.
- Ensure sufficient gross motor and body movement opportunities.
- Provide opportunities where children are given choices to engage in activities that are of interest to them.
- Enforce our sharing philosophy and teach children to finish what they started and help them remember to give it to a peer who is waiting when done.
- Model appropriate words to use, prompt speech, and aid in responsive reciprocal communication.
- Have children create the safety rules, be a leader and hold doors open for their peers, help serve snacks, if desired, set up carpet activities, help give out props, or take part in reading/re-telling stories.
- Provide parents with helpful phrases and terms.
- Be positive with children and model phrases they can use to communicate.
- Actively listen to children and enable them to find ways to meet their own needs by providing the environment, routine, materials or words they need to achieve it.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool fosters children’s exploration, play, and inquiry

Goals

- Foster children’s natural curiosity and desire to learn and try new things.

- Provide a safe, nurturing environment with consistent teachers who have formed positive relationships.
- Teachers will observe, document and react to stimulate children's creativity and problem solving skills.

Approaches

- Take pictures of the process of projects and steps children take when experimenting.
- Show parents these pictures (post to SeeSaw, add to portfolios).
- Provide safe materials for children to explore, plan, manipulate, sort, experiment, re-discover and master.
- Provide opportunities to act on children's interest to create projects that encourage inquiry.
- Rotate toys regularly to allow children to choose and take part in toy selection.
- Foster play-based learning.
- Enhance play and relationships by adding materials or items to foster further experimentation.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool provides child initiated and adult supported experiences.

Goals

- Provide a balance between child initiated (constructivist approach) and adult supported (instructivist approach) experiences based on both children's and teachers' interests.
- Find learning in everyday natural experiences.
- Foster a love for learning.
- Ensure safety within routines.
- Create experiences based on HDLH and pedagogical philosophy and up to date research.

Approaches

- Within a structured day, provide play based learning.
- Create a daily flow that meets individual needs.
- Have a list of possible topics or ideas for discovery ready, to combine with individual interests, to provide a good variety of stimulating activities and ideas for learning.
- Provide All About Me or show and share opportunities and allow children to bring items from home to talk about/explore with their peers.
- Introduce objectives to expose children to interesting concepts or movements that they can build on and experiment with (based on developmental needs).
- Scaffold learning.

- Help children find words needed to sustain/enter play.
- Use HDLH phrases in portfolios/ documentation.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool plans for and creates positive learning environments and experiences, in which each child's learning and development will be supported and which is inclusive of all children, including children with Individualized plans.

Goals

- Promote a holistic approach that fosters social, emotional, physical and spiritual development.
- Support children and families and their culture.
- Value differences and similarities.
- Create a sense of community.
- Ensure our programs are inclusive and accessible and set up to promote experiences and learning.
- Make children the main focus. The time they have there is about them – be attentive to their needs.
- Adults enhance the experiences and build relationships.

Approaches

- Adapt activities to ensure all children can participate.
- Develop and follow Individual Support Plans.
- Keep up-to-date on best practices.
- Follow children's lead – challenge them with open-ended and higher level questions.
- Bring learning to the next level.
- Set up diverse toys and equipment in an inviting way.
- Set up intentional learning opportunities at tables, carpet, or outside, designed for hands-on discovery.
- Foster equity, inclusion, and authentic diversity; encourage children to bring things in from home, survey families about celebrations, practices, and traditions, and try to incorporate them into the classroom.
- Support full active engagement.
- Maintain low ratios, high-adult presence (volunteers, parents).
- Promote leadership among the children – give them comments that help them to share power.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool incorporates indoor and outdoor play as well as active play, rest, and quiet time into the day and gives consideration to the individual needs of the children receiving care.

Goals

- Ensure a balance in the routine and flow to allow for active gross motor play, music, drama, quiet activities, puzzles, books, building, and enquiry-based learning.
- Use a preventative and proactive approach – take time to plan the day based on external issues and individual needs e.g., weather, emotions, health, interests, and other needs. Adapt as appropriate.

Approaches

- Set up in areas and time frames that enable children to engage in deep play.
- Flow from activity to snack to free play to group time (do not disrupt play with too many transitions).
- Have a sense of predictability to know what comes next – sense of security and control.
- Use of picture cues (via pictures on lanyards) and individual story books where needed.
- Collaborate with KW Habilitation and other resource consultants as needed. Have regular team meetings.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool fosters the engagement of and ongoing communication with parents about the program and their children.

Goals

- Host an Annual General Meeting, provide orientation training, and foster ongoing open communication,
- Provide a means for parents to communicate with teachers and the Board.
- Ensure teachers make time for brief updates after class, use the Seesaw app, and add white board memos, Zoom meetings and Seesaw updates
- Promote parent participation in various ways.
- Ensure the membership gives input.

Approaches

- Email membership to invite to meetings and monthly newsletters providing updates, policy changes, events, and encourage open communication with the Board of Directors and teachers.
- Post information and pictures on our website and on Seesaw, as well as on the bulletin boards in the hall
- Provide email addresses of teachers and Board of Directors.
- Create Seesaw portfolios for each child
- Invite parents to be guest speakers or share traditions, recipes and pictures with the class.
- Provide ongoing feedback (evaluation to be available to parents in

order to promote timely responses and ensure membership satisfaction).

- Survey parents frequently and seek and respond to feedback given.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool involves local community partners and allows those partners to support the children and their families and staff.

Goals

- To see evidence of community partnership and involvements that support children, families and staff.
- To have a referral process in place for children and families to meet needs and partner with others to optimize experiences and outcomes.
- To have a Community Advisor on the board of directors and allow that partner to support the children and their families and staff and provide continuity as board members move on.

Approaches

- Offer video resources/links on website.
- Meet with church affiliates – share our vision.
- Invite librarians and other partnerships into the classroom.
- Have guest speakers and utilize resources and professionals e.g., health unit.
- Be open to trying new things.
- Host Family fun night and Spring Fling events.
- Foster community partnerships with KW HAb, libraries, CLS students, ECE, etc.
- Link up with neighbouring community groups i.e. seniors yoga.
- Maintain active involvement in the community via food bank donations, OneList, professional resource centre, and financial aid.
- Invite local business to become sponsors of the preschool
- Invite past board members to join BOD as an advisor to help with continuity.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool supports staff who interact with children in relation to continuous professional learning.

Goals

- To increase staff and parents knowledge base by promoting ongoing Professional Development.
- To encourage staff to participate in continuous learning

opportunities required by the College of ECE and other regulatory bodies.

Approaches

- Offer information on newest research for parents/staff.
- Accommodate paid time set aside for staff reflection, team meetings, and planning.
- Have teachers summarize the workshops they attended for the Board of Directors and team members.
- Have regular teacher evaluation meetings with the Board of Directors.
- Review and self evaluate child guidance monitoring forms along with results from surveys to build the basis for goal setting.
- Promote employee wellness (emotional, physical and mental).
- Actively listen to children and enable them to find ways to meet their own needs by providing the environment, routine, materials, or words they need to achieve it.

Waterloo Cooperative Preschool documents and reviews the impact of the strategies set out in the statement above on the children and families.

Goals

- Conduct room and region evaluations and review results.
- Request Teachers to provide feedback.
- Request Board of Directors to provide feedback.
- Request Parents to provide feedback.
- Be open to ongoing feedback, and provide staff time to reflect on their practices.
- Review each year and plan ahead based on learned info/experiences and parent feedback.
- Stay up-to-date with new legislation, regulations and revise program statements annually.
- Ensure the Program statement and parent handbook is available online on the school website www.waterloopreschool.org and in the policy binder and is also discussed during orientation.

Approaches

- Observe documented feedback, licensing and region visit summaries and discuss at board meetings.
- Establish strategies to meet individual/group needs as they arise.
- Use the [Child Guidance Program Statement Implementation Record Monitoring Form](#) for staff to aid in goal setting and measure effectiveness of program statement and training needs.
- Perform annual surveys, children's observation reports, and picture diaries.

- Perform an annual review of the program statement by January of each year.
- Review ongoing feedback provided by membership three times a year.
- Have teachers ask children for their input/feedback.
- Ensure all staff, students, and volunteers review the statement prior to interacting with children and any time the statement is revised.
- Supervisor ensures the approaches set out are implemented in the operation of its program.

Waterloo Cooperative receives funding in part from the Region of Waterloo.

Revised: January 2023 by Britney Stewart and BOD.

Approved By: Britney Stewart (President) on January 2023

Seconded By: Meg Burns-Dolson (Membership) on January 2023