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Temporary childcare for essential workers during the COVID-19 crisis.

March 25th: These guidelines may be updated as the situation changes

Whistler Waldorf School Early Years Centre is located in the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation building at 1519 Spring Creek Drive. On March 30th, it is opening as a licensed group childcare for children of essential workers in Whistler.

What is an essential worker?

Essential Service Workers (ESWs) are those individuals considered critical to preserving life, health and societal functioning - including emergency responders, front-line health care workers, and critical infrastructure and supply chain (e.g. food, medicine) workers.

If you are at all able to stay at home and keep your children at home with you, you should not apply for a childcare space.

Available places

We have 16 places each day in total available for children aged 36months – school age (5years). 2 of the places could be for children between 30-36months.

Hours of operation:

With current staffing levels, the Early Years Centre can be open for children from 7:45am – 5pm. After 5pm, a late pick-up fee of \$1/minute will be applied to accounts.

Staff: The Early Years Centre will be staffed by Early Childhood Educators and assistants.

How to apply

Please make an application here:

http://whistlerwaldorf.com/wp-content/uploads/WWS-Application-Form-2018_fillable.pdf

and send it by email to admissions@whistlerwaldorf.com and nina@whistlerwaldorf.com clearly stating **ESSENTIAL WORKERS CHILD CARE** in the title of your email.

If you need assistance in filling out the form, please let us know.

We are waiving our regular \$100 application fee for this temporary daycare. Please state the days that you need care for on your application.

Care is not confirmed until you hear back from us.

If we confirm that we have a space available on the days requested, we will ask you to send digital copies of each child's birth certificate, immunization record a recent photo and financial information in order to make payments.

We will also send you our Parent Handbook upon confirmation.

Communication

Our regular reception and office is temporarily closed.

Please contact Nina Moore, the Early Years Licensing Manager, by email at nina@whistlerwaldorf.com for the quickest response.

Tuition & Payment

Daily fee is \$70/day.

We are waiving our usual deposit.

Families must pay for their care in advance, weekly.

We will invoice families on Thursdays for the week ahead, and payment must be made by close of business Friday if you want to receive care on Monday.

Non-payment will mean no care can be offered the following week.

If you end up self-isolating because of COVID-19, the remainder of the week is payable and non-refundable; this is because we still need to pay our staff members and overheads for the week.

Late pick-up fees are payable as usual, \$1/minute, and will be applied to your invoice.

Sickness & symptoms

Children showing respiratory symptoms and/or fever must stay home for 14 days from showing symptoms.

Children with family members showing respiratory symptoms and/or fever must stay home for 14 days.

COVID-19 Precautions

No adults apart from our ECE staff in the building, please, except for the boot room.

Only 1 adult to drop off/pick up each child daily.

If the boot room is full, please wait outside until the person ahead of you vacates the boot room.

All children will be brought to wash their hands immediately upon entry.

Whistler Waldorf Early Years Centre staff will take all reasonable precautions for health and safety whilst providing for your children.

Part of our very job in a group childcare is helping children learn about health and hygiene, to teach about coughs and sneezes, hand washing, and good hygiene. But children are also learning – they haven't got personal hygiene dialled yet. Little children need human contact.

They need cuddles. They need a soothing hand if they have an owie. They play with one another in close contact, and play is exactly what they need in stressful times like these. Teaching social distancing skills takes time and can be extremely difficult to maintain in a group childcare setting. We simply won't be able to guarantee a 1-2meter distance between children. We also cannot guarantee no transmission of COVID-19 at the EYC. It is a risk. Please see the attached 'Public Health Guidelines for Childcare' which we will be practising.

Our caregivers have volunteered to provide this childcare service for your families, knowing the risk to themselves as well. They will care for your children with dignity, compassion, joy and enthusiasm in these difficult times, helping to create a steady rhythm and comforting space.

Cleaning & hygiene schedule

Our staff will take all the regular universal health and hygiene precautions.

Increased cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces and objects like door handles, toilets and toys.

They will have extra time for increased cleaning in evening after closing: laundering blankets and sheets from rest time, mopping.

Continuation of services

We will keep this essential service open for those who absolutely need it for as long as possibly during the COVID-19 crisis.

We cannot guarantee the continuation of this service, as it depends on the health of our caregivers as well, and the advice of VCH.

We can promise to stay in communication with all parents regarding closures, if necessary.

If a caregiver or child who attends the centre is tested positive for COVID-19, we will follow the procedures for closure as set out by VCH.

Regular Services resuming

If your child is a regular attendee of the Whistler Waldorf Early Years Centre or Little Cedars we will resume regular service as soon as possible.

We will hold your child's place at our facilities – in the Early Years Centre, if you request your deposit returned to you, we will assume you no longer need the space to be held, and cannot guarantee it for you.

Author: Nina Moore

Date: March 26th 1pm.

These guidelines may be updated as the situation changes.