



Ekwaamjigenang Children's Centre Program Statement

Nimajii-toomin Maamwi

"We are on this journey together" as we work together to nurture, teach, guide, empower, inspire, protect, and interact with the children, your children, our Ekwaamjigenang, "Our Children, Our Sacred Gifts".

This Program Statement has been developed in collaboration with families, staff, Ministry of Education, and the community of New Credit. The Child Care Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA), How Does Learning Happen?, and the "Elect" Document. This statement and other supplementary documents are used by the administration and program staff as a tool for understanding, implementing and maintaining high quality child and family programs, supports, and services. All policies are reviewed annually by Chief and Council and families are welcome to offer their suggestions and any proposed changes.

Ekwaamjigenang is Ojibwe for "Our Children, Our Sacred Gifts". Children are one of the many sacred gifts "Gitchi Manitou", the Creator, has given to us to be responsible for. We believe our children are our sacred gifts and the goal of Ekwaamjigenang Children's Centre is to create a comfortable home away from home where children feel welcomed, loved, respected, nurtured and safe.

We believe in the potential of every child, the value of play, and the importance of attachment, in the development and well-being of children. We use the "pedagogy of learning for the early years" as our learning resource guide. The "How Does Learning Happen" pedagogy is organized around belonging, well-being, engagement, and expression as the foundation for children's growth and learning.

Children and families are at the centre of all circles and we not only recognize, honour, and support the attachment of children to their primary caregivers but, also, include them in the creation of an environment and program that is rich in inspiration and possibilities.



The Aboriginal Language and Cultural Pedagogy is primarily based on the Ojibwe culture/tradition and balanced with respecting and including all children's cultures enrolled in the program. At Ekwaamjigenang we include the Ojibwe language, cultural traditions, and a healthy relationship with the Earth, in the lives of the children in our care.

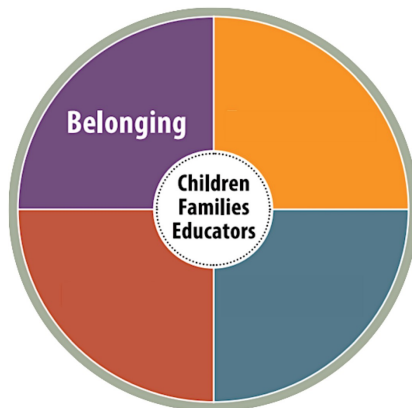


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Ekwaamjigenang's Program Goals

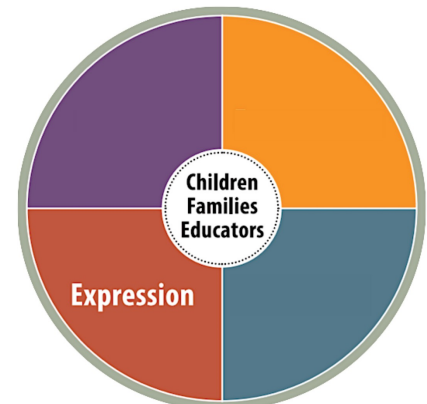
Our goal is to provide a quality, research-based program

- **EMERGENT CURRICULUM:** creating an environment and activities that build on children's interests, life experiences, skill levels and potential.
- **ATTACHMENT-BASED:** helping children stay connected with their primary caregiver(s) throughout the day, to community, and to the Earth.
- **ELECT:** using Early Learning for Every Child Today to help us observe and plan for each child's developmental needs.
- **PEDAGOGY:** incorporating Ontario's pedagogy for the Early Years (How Learning Happens) to help children develop a sense of belonging, their sense of self, their health and well-being, and to support continuous professional learning for the staff.
- **OJIBWE CULTURE:** keeping children and family at the centre of all circles and engaging the children in the Ojibwe language, traditions, and relationship with the Earth.



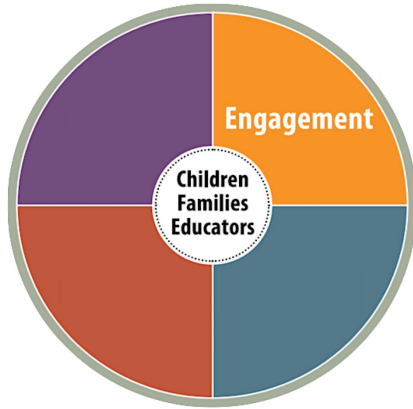
- Activities are initiated and enhanced to encourage, expand on, and develop healthy individual, peer, adult-child, and group interactions.
- Interactions, activities, and the environment create/support the attachment to primary caregivers, to community (local to world-wide), and to the Earth, strengthening the children's sense of belonging, identity, and security.
- Family and community members are invited to join us at the centre and to share their Wisdom and skills with the children.

- Children are provided the opportunities and encouragement to express themselves physically, verbally, and creatively in a healthy and safe manner.
- Children's unique perspectives, intentions, actions and thoughts are respected and supported through listening and guidance.
- The Native Teachings of "Wisdom, Love, Respect, Honesty, Humility, Bravery, and Truth" are the basis of our interactions and are used to teach and guide.



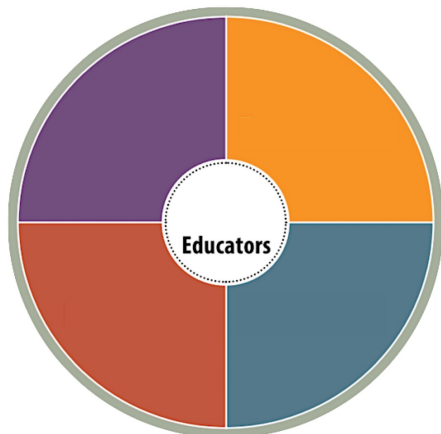
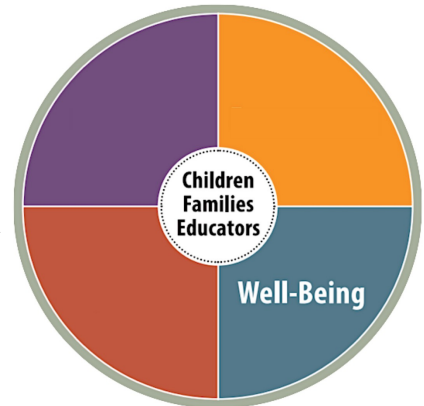


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- The environment, resources, and activities are adapted to inspire curiosity, creative thinking and expressing, exploration, and play.
- We believe that every child is capable and rich in potential. We strive to help each child build a strong foundation for their life journey.
- We respect and support every child's unique way of engaging with the world.

- We care for and support the children's social, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual well-being.
- We encourage and assist manageable risk-taking (physically and emotionally), helping the children learn and grow and to develop resiliency, self-regulation and a positive self-esteem.
- We provide a balance of indoor/outdoor, active/quiet, child-lead/teacher-lead, and independent/adult-supported activities.



- Staff participate in training throughout the year, reflect on their programs and interactions, research current information on early childhood and children's interests and share information and observations with co-workers and families.
- Observations, reflections, documentations, and interactions are checked regularly by Supervising Staff.
- Staff review and sign the Program Statement and Staff Handbook on a yearly basis.

This Program Statement is reviewed and signed yearly by Staff & Chief And Band Council