

Li'l Rascals Parent Participation Preschool Information Package for Prospective Members



Li'l Rascals Parent Participation Preschool (PPP) has been a school of choice to parents of young children in South Delta for many years. We are located in a cozy house that has been completely transformed to beautifully accommodate the many interests of young children ... and our spacious playground is always a big hit! Our greatest assets are our teachers, Mary Sambell and Kari Brucks, who bring deep experience, unswerving energy and deep caring to their teaching. As a result, we have an enriched program in a comfortable warm environment.

A *Parent Participation Preschool (PPP)* is a natural first step for your three-year old. Parent and child take this step together, thus making their first educational experience a happy one. You will find yourselves surrounded by other interested parents, and learn from them as well as from the teacher. It is a preschool to which the parents, children and teacher all contribute, and actively participate in a creative learning environment full of growth.

Our parents enjoy a very collegial and social experience as members of a PPP. Our parent education program will provide you with a wide range of informative topics--you will learn about such things as children and art and/or music, health and the preschooler, special needs children, parenting skills, primary school readiness, and many others.

Our children develop wonderful friendships with each other. They benefit greatly from having their parents involved at the preschool.

A PPP provides parents with an opportunity to regularly participate in their child's development. Through play, parents can observe and understand their own child's, as well as other children's physical, social, emotional, intellectual and creative needs, development and individuality.

Just some of the things you will experience:

- Playing with your child and their friends on your duty days without the distractions of home
- Hearing excellent speakers from throughout the Lower Mainland on child development and family life at monthly meetings
- Making new friendships within your community
- Providing input into your child's educational experience.

Our Teachers

The preschool is non-profit, founded and maintained by parents whose concern is to provide a quality educational experience for their children during the vital preschool years. The school employs two people – our teachers. All other functions relating to the operations of the school are done by the parents – i.e. financials, maintenance, parent education, fundraising, etc. with help from some hired professionals.

The 3's Class- Mrs. Mary Sambell

Mary is now into her 11th year of teaching at Li'l Rascals. Her dedication and experience makes her a respected and loved teacher in the classroom. Mary has been teaching children for 22 years and has a Special Needs Preschool certification and experience. Mary is also a past president of the PPP council.

The 4's Class – Ms. Kari Brucks

Kari is a recent and welcome addition to our school. She moved to B.C. from Calgary, Alberta and comes to us with a tremendous amount of experience dealing with children. She has an ECE diploma from Mount Royal College. For the 7 years prior to coming to us, she has worked as a preschool teacher in Calgary, 4 years of which as the Preschool Coordinator in the school with 156 children. She has been a part of the Li'l Rascals family for 3 years now and her continued energy and fresh ideas keep the children engaged and challenged every day!

Learn Through Play

- **Make believe/role-playing** - this area of the school allows children to try different roles and promotes cooperation
- **Story time/Circle Time** - sitting quietly listening to stories develops the skills of concentration and attention, and is an introduction to the wonderful world of books and reading
- **Painting** - painting provides an opportunity for self-expression and enjoyment
- **Water play and Sandbox** - play in these areas encourages experimentation. It also presents early scientific and math concepts
- **Music and Rhythm** - these provide a means of self-expression through experimentation with songs, instruments, finger plays, games and dancing
- **Table toys** - puzzles, beads, games, etc. - these help children to develop hand-eye coordination, sequencing skills, ability to follow direction and concentration
- **Cutting and pasting** - these provide an experience in hand and finger manipulation as well as self-expression
- **Science Table** - objects and experiments feed a child's natural curiosity about the world around them and expand general knowledge
- **Block Building** - building is a bridge between the world of pretend and reality. It provides experience in spatial relationships, opportunities for sharing, and develops large and small muscle control
- **Outdoor Play** - children need fresh air and exercise; it helps build strong muscles and healthy bodies. Physical play helps develop an awareness of their bodies (balance, strength, coordination)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a parent participation preschool (PPP)?

In a parent participation preschool, the parents contribute to the administration of the school and spend time in the classroom. Parents work together with the children and qualified teacher to create a positive, supportive and enriched educational environment.

What are the benefits?

- A warm, caring atmosphere
- An experienced and creative licensed teacher
- A varied and interesting program
- An opportunity for you and your child to develop new friendships
- A chance to share in your child's early educational experiences

What if my child isn't fully toilet trained?

No problem! We will support you in your toilet training efforts.

What do you think my child will gain from being in a PPP?

- Confidence
- Social Skills
- Development of age appropriate physical and mental skills
- A broader outlook on the world than a home base alone can provide.
- Playmates, playmates, playmates!

Parent Participation: What does it really involve?

Duty Days

Approximately twice monthly you will act as the teacher's assistant and stay for the entire class. You will bring the snack on these days to be shared by the whole class.

Parent Education

A predefined program completed BEFORE your first duty day plus a monthly education session. Please keep reading this FAQ for more details. Topics we have addressed in our parent education include child development, encouraging reading in preschoolers and nutrition for picky eaters. Prospective parents are welcome to join us for our parent education sessions.

Partial Participation

Partial participation is an option that can allow parents to opt out of duty days only. Instead, they pay a slightly increased monthly fee.

General Meetings

Since the preschool is cooperatively run by the parents, monthly general meetings are held to discuss the business of the preschool. They are generally on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the school – occasionally we go to a special speaker at a different time and location. Meetings usually start with the parent education speaker and are followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Are there special skills I'll need to have?

The only special skills we really need are your energy, sensitivity to children's needs and a willingness to share these aspects of yourself. Through our Parent Education Program we make sure that everyone soon feels at home in a classroom and with the children.

How is it decided what my job will be?

To ensure a smooth operation of our preschool, there are specific jobs that each duty parent must assume for the school year. Of the jobs available, you may choose four which appeal to you the most. We will assign each position, hopefully incorporating your special interest.

What kinds of guidelines are there for doing each job properly?

There are job description folders for many of the jobs and group members already familiar with each job will help you out.

What do I do on a duty morning?

The teacher directs all the children's activities. Your duties may include helping with the special art project, intervening in conflict situations and cleaning up at the end of the day. The most important and satisfying job on duty days is to have special play time with your child and his/her classmates.

Is there any flexibility as to when I am on duty?

Yes. A duty schedule is made for each upcoming month and you are welcome to indicate your preferred times. Also, parents can exchange duty days to benefit each other.

Is a PPP something that working parents could cope with?

If circumstances make full-participation difficult, then parents may choose to be partial participants. Please note that partial participating parents are limited to 25% of the number of preschoolers enrolled in a class. You are still required to attend monthly General Meetings and hold a job within the school. Another option is to have another family member or caregiver provide full participation. We have had nannies, grandparents and aunts participating in the classroom, and we've also had mothers and fathers sharing their family's duty days.

Can I bring a sibling with me on a duty day?

The school is not permitted to have siblings stay during school hours due to licensing regulations and insurance liability. One of the wonderful advantages to PPP is being able to see your child at school and actively take part in their activities at school. The parent acts as an assistant to the teacher and therefore, needs to be 100% focused on the children.

What is the Parent Education Program?

The Community Care Licensing Board recognizes that very few parents are trained to be, or even feel comfortable as teacher assistants. But in a PPP you are a classroom assistant, and have some responsibility for the safety and well-being of a number of children. PPP's are licensed to operate on the condition that the duty

parents have 10 hours of orientation prior to working in the classroom and 1-1/2 hours of parent education each month of the school year. Parent education throughout the year is a part of each general meeting. Topics of a broad interest to all parents are presented by a guest speaker with opportunity for discussion afterwards.

What does the school day entail?

- Free play until all the class has arrived
- Group time called "circle time" with the teacher and duty parents
- Free play with encouragement for each child to try the craft of the day
- Snack time
- Circle time (usually story time)
- Outside play (weather permitting)

What is my responsibility regarding fundraising?

Fundraising activities are on a voluntary basis. However, it should be stressed that 100% member participation in these activities is desired. As a non-profit organization, fundraising is an important function within the school as well as allowing the school to make equipment/material purchases throughout the year to enhance the program for the children. Many hands make light work!!

****** Due to reduced government grants our focus on fundraising has naturally increased. We appreciate how busy life gets and strive to participate in programs that are easy to do/organize, provide a useful product that you would perhaps otherwise be purchasing elsewhere and/or are a lot of fun. This year we sold frozen pizzas and cookies/dessert bars, donated clothes to Big Brothers and held our ever popular Pub Night!******

Are there any fathers involved in preschool activities?

Yes!! We have several fathers that do duty days! If that is not possible they are always welcome to join in classroom activities and excursions as an extra. And we appreciate all the Dads who mow the lawn, change the light bulbs and build us new bookshelves!!

What are the advantages of a PPP?

- Parents are welcome in the classroom and may participate in the program for as long as it takes your child to be comfortable and ready to separate from you.
- The ratio of adults to children in a PPP is far better than in any educational situation you will meet in your child's entire school career. The sheer volume of encouragement and support this provides is a tremendous boost to a child just learning to function outside the home environment.
- The opportunity for your own development and education as a parent is one you should not miss. It is a very rewarding experience.
- And lastly, and most important of all...

...PARTICIPATING AND SHARING IS FUN! COME AND JOIN US!

The following outlines some of the requirements of the parents for Li'l Rascals PPP:

Parent Orientation

The Community Care Licensing Board requires 10 hours of orientation for every full-participating parent in the school. This consists of:

Observation of one class	2.5 hours
June General Meeting	2.5 hours
Registration & reading Parent's Handbook	2.5 hours
September New Parent Workshop	<u>2.5 hours</u>
Total	10 hours

Parent Participation Requirements:

Parents agree to the following requirements:

- Attend monthly general meeting
- Assist the teacher at the school about once every two weeks (duty days)
- Responsibly fill a job position assigned to you, or serve on the Executive
- Be responsible for the daily transportation of your child to and from the school
- Pay fees by a series of postdated cheques

Fees

A non-refundable registration fee of \$70.00 is payable to complete your registration. Postdated cheques for monthly fees are collected at the end of May. Presently, the fees are as follows:

2 days per week:

Full participating parent - \$98 per month

Partial participating parent (no duty days) - \$130 per month

3 days per week:

Full participating parent - \$135 per month

Partial participating parent (no duty days) - \$165 per month

****Please note, there are no additional fees for music classes, yoga or field trips.****

If you have any other questions please feel free to call the school at 604.940.9906.

www.lilrascals.ca