



HAPPY CAMPERS CHILD CARE LTD.

" Offering quality child care in the Western Communities since 1992"

PARENTS HANDBOOK – (full day school)

Welcome to our out-of-school care center, where every day is a busy day filled with activities that will foster individual, social, physical, emotional & cognitive growth in a nurturing, fun atmosphere. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to discover their own individuality through both adult guided activities and through free play.

HOURS OF OPERATION

We are open year round, from 6:30 am - 6 pm (except for Kelly which is open 6:30-5pm, Bray which is open 7-5:30pm and Otter Point which is open 6:30am-5:30pm), Monday through Friday except statutory holidays. Extra days, e.g. Professional days, Spring Break, etc., will be available for an extra charge. You will need to pre- register and pre- pay for these extra days. Please be prompt when picking up your child from the childcare center. If a child has not been picked up by 6pm, the caregiver will try to contact the alternative person from the authorized pick up list. If that person is unavailable and the parent has not contacted the caregiver by 1 hour after the center closes, the caregiver is required to notify the Ministry for Children and Families. A late fee of \$20:00 per 15 minutes (or portion thereof) per child will be charged. If late pick up is an ongoing problem and reasonable effort has been made to solve it, then notice of termination of services may be given.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD

Each new child is accepted on a one month probationary period. Happy Campers reserves the right to refuse care. If a child demonstrates an inability to participate in the regular daily program, parents are expected to arrange alternate care for their child and correspondence will be sent home. If no improvements have been shown in the allotted time frame Happy Campers may terminate care.

HAPPY CAMPERS HOLIDAYS – 2021

Friday January 1 st 2021	New Year's Day
Monday February 15 th 2021	Family Day
Friday April 2 nd 2021	Good Friday
Monday April 5 th 2021	Easter Monday
Monday May 24 th 2021	Victoria Day
Tuesday June 29 th 2021 (OUT OF SCHOOL CARE ONLY)	Summer Camp Set Up
Thursday July 1 st 2021	Canada Day
Monday August 2 nd 2021	BC Day
Monday September 6 th 2021	Labour Day
Friday Oct 22 nd 2021	Company wide professional development day
Monday October 11 th 2021	Thanksgiving Day
Thursday November 11 th 2021	Remembrance Day
Monday December 20 th 2021 to Monday January 3 rd 2022	Christmas closure for all centers

EMERGENCY CENTER CLOSURE

In the event of Happy Campers Child Care having to close due to reasons beyond our control (including but not limited to snow days, earthquakes, fire, flood, health emergencies or teacher's strike) you will be contacted to pick up your child immediately via email. There will be no refunds for emergency center closures. Please note, if school district busses do not run, our busses do not run. If the school district closes ALL Happy Campers sites will also be closed. This will include all our ECE and IT centers as well as all OSC centers. If staff cannot safely make it into work, we reserve the right to close ALL centers to ensure that their safety is not compromised. Thank you for your understanding.

Emergency packs are located at each site. These include tents, first aid supplies, tools, radios, etc. You must familiarize your selves with emergency evacuation routes (posted on each parent board). In the event of a tsunami, staff will get all the children & staff into whatever vehicles are available & drive as high as possible e.g. Triangle mountain, the Malahat.

SCREEN TIME POLICY

Screen time for school age children is limited to a maximum of 1 (one) movie per week. This does not mean that every center will show a movie every week, but rather it is a pre-organized option to do so. There are no tablets or computers available for children to use at any Happy Campers locations. Children will not be permitted to use their own personal electronic devices at Happy Campers.

ACTIVE PLAY POLICY

At Happy Campers OSC centers, all children have outside physical play for at least 1 ½ hours in the afternoon. Many centers stay outside for up to 7 hours a day (during full day camps). We play, learn & explore outside in all types of weather (unless it is a danger to the children and/or staff) so please ensure your child has weather appropriate clothing.

FOOD & DRINK POLICY

We promote healthy eating and nutritional habits at all Happy Campers sites. Safe drinking water is available for all children at all times and we encourage them to drink as much as they would like. If a child has specific nutritional requirements, we will ensure that all staff at the site in question knows, understands and complies with these requirements. All centers are nut awareness zones to help with any potential allergies our children may have. Parents supply all food and snacks. Please be aware what you are sending with your child and at all times possible send food that contains no nut products.

FEES *Please note that due to a lower number of spaces, before school only, after school care only and part time care is not available.

Monthly Rate	Sept 2020	CCOF reduction	Reduced fees	Sept 2021	CCOF reduction	Reduced fees
Kindergarten	\$500	\$100	\$400	\$520	\$100	\$420
Grade 1	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$500
Grade 2-5	\$450	\$0	\$450	\$450	\$0	\$450
Bus fee if applicable	\$40			\$40		

Fees can be e-transferred to info@happycampers.ca on the 1st of each month.

*full day kindergarten & grade 1 student's fees are higher as our staff: child ratio is higher than that for grade 2-7 students.

***We are not able to offer full day care during kindergarten gradual entry due to the high number of children we care for and schools we service.**

During the first week of school when the kindies have gradual entry please feel free to utilize the before and after school care you have registered for but you will be expected to pick-up your child before school begins.

Kindergarten students are handed to and picked up from their teacher or "teacher on duty". Older students will be signed out from our morning care when we get on the school grounds.

A \$40 non-refundable registration fee is required at time of registration (new or renewing). This will cover the cost of necessary office work.

A bus fee will be in effect for transporting children to schools where we do not have on site care. Prices do not include professional days or full camp days. Cheques are to be made payable to Happy Campers Child Care. Any subsidy authorization numbers are to be attached prior to registration. Please note that the Ministry/Government agencies may not cover the full monthly cost. Clients will be responsible for any fees that the ministry/Government doesn't cover. **Fees have been averaged out over the 10 months that school is in session and so the fee for December & March will remain the same even though those months include holidays.**

If you know your child will be absent from Happy Campers, you will need to text your child care site so that all drivers & caregivers can be contacted by 2pm. Please text your child's absence to the OSC sites. (see numbers below)

A \$10 no show fee will be implemented every time a child does not show up for after school care either directly at the site or at the Happy Campers bus. If this happens 3 times, then your child may lose his spot with Happy Campers. We have had to implement this to avoid drivers having to search for children making them late for the next school and reporting missing children to the police

Colwood	3000, Wishart Rd	Jon	250-661-8547
David Cameron	675, Meaford Ave	Monica	250-896-1347
Dunford	948, Dunford Ave	Lauren	250-661-8578
Forge	2612, Sooke Rd	Alisa	250-661-8517
Happy Valley	3291, Happy Valley Rd	Lorne	250-661-4548
Lake Cowichan	154, South Shore Rd	Lucy-Ann	1.250.932.3424
Mt. View	510, Mt. View Ave	Kyleigh	250.391.0909
Orono	809, Orono Ave	Carlee	250-661-8518
Otter Point ECE	2080, Otter Point Rd	Maria	250-642-0608
Otter Point OSC	2080, Otter Point Rd	Devan	250-661-8512
Sangster/Metchosin (up)	3424, Metchosin Rd	Kiara	250-661-8513
Willway	2939, Mt. Well's Dr	Janelle	250-661-8549
Wishart	3310, Wishart Rd	Cody	250-661-8521

BULLYING POLICY

In the past, we have had some unfortunate instances of some of the children in Happy Campers out of school care calling other children names or intentionally physically hurting them. These names are often associated with physical characteristics of the "victims" and are extremely hurtful. I am asking you all to talk to your children regarding name calling/physical aggression & abuse and explain to them that not only is this a terrible way to treat our friends, but that also I regard this as bullying and this will not be tolerated in any of our child care centers. If your child is involved with name calling and/or bullying I will be speaking to them directly and will inform you by email/phone. If it happens again you will be notified immediately and asked to pick up your child. A third instance will warrant immediate termination of child care services – no notice will be given. As noted in our parent handbook "No child shall be subject to violence or abuse of any kind".

REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS

Fees are paid, in advance, on the 1st of each month. Effective the 3rd of each month, any unpaid fees are subject to \$25/day late fee. If payment including late fees is not received by the 5th of the month your child may lose his/her spot at the center without further notice. In the event of your child being away for any reason (including but not exclusive to holidays or maternity leave), your regular monthly fee will still be charged to keep your spot. If the caregiver is sick an alternate caregiver will be provided. If we are unable to care for your child, you will be given one month's notice unless there is a behavioral problem e.g. biting, or inappropriate actions by the children/parents/guardians towards staff and then no notice will be given. If your child puts himself or others at risk, you will be contacted and if the situation is not resolved immediately, you will be asked to take your child home and he/she will not be allowed back. There will be no refunds. No child or staff shall be subject to violence or abuse of any kind.

There is an additional \$25 charge for all NSF payments.

***A MINIMUM OF ONE WHOLE CALENDAR MONTHS WRITTEN NOTICE IS REQUIRED WHEN WITHDRAWING YOUR CHILD FROM THE PROGRAM OR CHANGING TYPE OF CARE (or payment in lieu of notice). E.g. to end care on August 31st, written/emailed notice must be received in the office by July 31st. This will pertain to all future secured registrations.**

CODE OF ETHICS

1. The safety of self and others will be considered a priority at all times.
2. Everyone will be treated with respect and dignity, without exception.
3. Full commitment to the success of both the individual and the group will be reflected in all actions.

ILLNESS

All children get colds and through ongoing hand washing and good hygiene habits we hope to minimize the spreading of germs. However, if your child has a communicable disease or if they cannot participate in the regular daily program, you will need to make alternate care arrangements for them. First-aid treatment does not include any form of orally digested medications. Medication will only be administered on the written request of the parent/guardian or upon permission given via telephone to the center for an emergency situation. If your child carries an epi-pen or an inhaler, the office must be informed at the time of registration and a care plan must be put in place in writing to request that the child carries their medication on their person & not have it locked up. Care plan forms are available at the office.

Please see our Conditions for Exclusion on the last page.

EMERGENCY PLAN & PROCEDURES

As childcare providers, we are aware of the appropriate procedures. However, as parents you should know the following: a) your child will be kept with us until he/she is picked up, b) no child shall be released into anyone's care other than the parents or persons authorized on the consent form.

In the event of an emergency, staff will quickly & safely direct the children out of the nearest and safest emergency exit. They will take them outside of the building where they will meet in the front of the school, next to the parking lot (see diagram located in each center). Attendance sheets, first-aid kits and earthquake kits will be taken outside as well. The emergency cards that you filled out will be used to phone parents and/or persons authorized to pick up the children.

RELEASE OF A CHILD FROM A CHILDCARE FACILITY

Any child registered in our childcare program will need to be picked up prior to 6pm. No child shall be released from our care to anyone other than the parents or persons authorized on the consent form. The first time an authorized person picks the child up, they will be required to show photo identification e.g. valid driver's license. If an authorized person comes to pick up a child and appears to be incapable of doing so (e.g. he/she is intoxicated), the alternate person on the authorization form will be contacted. Our staff are obliged to consider the health and safety of all involved and should a parent/guardian choose to drive while intoxicated, our staff will report this to the police. If staff feel that the health and welfare of the child is at risk, they may also contact the Ministry of Children & Families. Please advise in writing, of any custody agreements that pertain to the child and submit a photocopy of any such court ordered papers.

GUIDANCE

All children are treated with respect here and in return I expect them to treat others with respect. If a conflict occurs, older children are encouraged to problem solve among themselves, whereas with the younger children adult guided problem solving will be implemented. "Time away" is used as a last resort. It is used if a child is showing the potential to hurt someone, hurt themselves or hurt our toys.

HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN

As part of our health and safety plan, we have implemented the following into our daily routine:

- Our qualified staff are here to give your child the highest quality care available.
- Our most important job is teaching socialization, interaction with peers & adults and to nurture the children.
- All disruptive behaviour will be documented internally & that information will be used during communication with parents, (and if necessary) supported child care development consultants and/or Ministry of Children & Families.
- In the event that your child is uncontrollable, we will not physically restrain your child but if necessary we will call you or another authorized adult on your registration form to pick them up. As a last resort, we may have to call 911. This may include, but will not be exclusive to, hurting themselves, hurting others or hurting our toys/equipment.

If necessary we will implement the following;

- Consistent negative behaviour will be discussed at a staff meeting where a behavioural guidance plan will be decided on and implemented into the child's daily routine. The parents will be contacted via e-mail, phone, in person or by mail and informed of these decisions.
- After following through with the guidance plan and if no improvement is noted, then an observation by a consultant from supported child care or the Ministry of Families & Children will be completed.
- A daily communication book may be introduced to ensure complete communication between daycare staff & the child's parents.
- Loss of bus privileges and suspensions consisting of one day, two days or one week will be used if necessary and as a last resort, expulsion may be implemented.

INCLUSION

The staff at Happy Campers work closely with the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health or the Victoria Native Friendship Center in the Greater Victoria area or Sundrops in the Cowichan Valley and to try to include all children whatever their level of ability may be. All children will be treated equally, never isolated and all activities will be altered to accommodate all ability levels if & when necessary. Whether the extra support needs are physical, mental, emotional, behavioural or dietary; are severe or mild, we strive for inclusion and integration with all children aged 2 ½ - 12 years old. When children with extra support needs register in our programs, Happy Campers needs to think carefully about whether or not the Centre can safely care for that individual as well as twenty or more other children at the same time. If we are able to accept your child into our program, there needs to be a written plan made in consultation with and agreed to by the parents of the child.

Step One: Gather information about the child, their needs and abilities.

Step Two: Consider what accommodations, extra staffing, extra training and new procedures might be required.

Step Three: Consider the effect this individual may have on our program.

Step Four: Decide whether or not our center is able to provide safe and effective care.

Step Five: Create a written plan to care for the individual and include back up plan or alternatives if the plan needs to be revised.

Step Six: Implement the Plan and ensure it is successful. Revise and make necessary changes every 6 months.

Happy Campers does not discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation or services because of their race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation of that person(s).

Happy Campers Child Care cannot always guarantee placement for children with extra support needs. We will however, strive to accommodate as many Supported Child Care children as we can, with the understanding that the programming needs of all children must be met in order to maintain the high quality program standards we demand.

If we are able to accommodate your child that will require a Supported Child Care worker, it is the sole responsibility of the parents to arrange the contract with Supported Child Development through the QA, Sundrops or VNFC. This process must be in place a minimum of 1 month prior to the child's enrollment in the program. When this has been completed and we have signed a contract with QA, Sundrops or VNFC we will then hire an inclusion worker. The child will not be able to attend the program until a worker has been hired.

INSURANCE & STAFF

We have liability insurance and we have a license to operate through V.I.H.A. & local city authority. All staff have a criminal record check, first-aid/C.P.R., epi-pen training, are over 19 years of age and have a Doctor's note stating they are in good health to work with children. All staff have a minimum of 20 hours of child related education, some have additional training and all are required to continue their professional development on an ongoing basis

SWIMMING & FIELD TRIPS

While swimming all children will wear a colour coded wrist band which depicts either a fully competent swimmer or a non-swimmer. Non-swimmer's must bring a life jacket with them provided by the parents if they want to go past ankle depth.

Head counts happen all day long but especially while getting on and off the bus, while outside of our centers fenced area. While on field trips staff will do head counts continuously.

HEALTH & WELLNESS POLICY

All children get colds and through ongoing hand washing and good hygiene habits we hope to minimize the spreading of germs. However, if your child has a communicable disease or if they cannot participate in the regular daily program, you will need to make alternate care arrangements for them. Your child must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning. This includes when staff send your child home sick they may not return prior to 24 hours later. First-aid treatment does not include any form of orally digested medications. Medication will only be administered on the written request of the parent/guardian or upon permission given via telephone to the center for an emergency situation. If your child carries an epi-pen or an inhaler, the office must be informed at the time of registration and a care plan must be put in place in writing to request that the child carries their medication on their person & not have it locked up. Care plan forms are available at the office.

Conditions for exclusion:

Deep/hard Coughing: 3-5 times an hour - return when cough has subsided

Fever: 38.3°C (101°F) or over. - return when temperature has remained at 37°C (98.6°F) for 24 hours without the aid of medication, or 48 hours when a more serious illness is circulating in the community or in the case of a pandemic (please see below)

Vomiting: 2 vomits in a 5 hour period. Child can return after 24 hour of last bout of sickness, or 48 hours when a more serious illness (i.e.: Norwalk Virus) is circulating in the community

Diarrhea: twice in one day - return after one normal bowel movement

Acute Cold: contagious with obvious discharge of thick, cloudy or infected green or reddish brown mucus – return when discharge has subsided (a swab may be requested by staff. Child will need to stay out of the center while waiting for results).

Antibiotic: return after 24 hours from first dose

Infected skin or eyes: return when the child has been examined by a doctor, diagnosis is confirmed and medication has been administered for 24 hours.

Conjunctivitis (pink eye) must be treated and eyes clear before the child may return.

Communicable diseases (hand, foot & mouth, chicken pox etc.): must report to the daycare as soon as possible and observe Public Health Standards for the safe return to daycare

Lice: Children must be lice and nit/egg free before they may return to daycare. Staff will continue to monitor and children may be sent home again for further treatment

General Wellness: Children must be physically and emotionally capable of program participation. Children who experience falls that result in potential concussion symptoms, broken/fractured or sprained limbs and who may require additional support could be asked to stay out of care until health wellness is known and managed.

****Please be advised that Happy Campers staff reserve the right to exclude from care based on health concerns for our overall group...a Doctor's Note may not grant you medical clearance to attend****

GENERAL PANDEMIC POLICY

Childcare programs in BC are licensed and regulated through the Ministry of Health. As a result, Happy Campers Child Care may be directed by a Child Care Licensing Officer to close operations during a pandemic or other communicable disease outbreak. Happy Campers will diligently follow all directives provided by the BC Ministry of Health and any other regulating body deemed necessary by them. The legal authority to close a childcare program for public health reasons falls under the purview of the local Medical Health Officer and the Provincial Health Officer and their decision overrules any decision to stay open that an individual childcare facility or parent may wish to make.

As you are aware, it is very difficult to social distance completely with young children and having children cared for inside our centers will open everyone's social bubble significantly (children, families, staff & their families). Masks & gloves have been provided to all HC employees however, wearing a mask while caring for young children is often not feasible.

Given children's natural curiosity which governs their ability to learn and discover the world around them, it is impossible to guarantee that there will be no contact between them so we will be taking other precautions in the form of reduced hours, less toys in rotation, a stricter health & wellness policy (see below) more cleaning and more outside time.

Parents and caregivers, who are or have children who are deemed vulnerable, are encouraged to consult with their health care providers to determine if their child should attend childcare if they are uncertain.

Health and Wellness Policy:

Our regular health & wellness policy continues to apply during a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak however additional restrictions may apply based on government/licensing officer directives. This may include, but is not limited to, extending our required at-home "symptom free" time period following any symptoms or requiring children with symptoms, even if they are feeling well and have plenty of energy, to remain at home. A child who develops any symptoms while in care will be asked to be picked up immediately and remain at home for a minimum of fourteen consecutive days. Should a child test positive for a communicable disease they will not be permitted to return to childcare until they test negative and a medical professional deems it appropriate. This policy also pertains to Happy Campers employees. Please see below for additional requirements.

Hours of operation:

During a pandemic we reserve the right to change operating hours in order to effectively clean and sanitize after all the children have gone home. These new hours may or may not stay in effect.



COVID19 SPECIFIC PANDEMIC POLICY

In light of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we feel it is important to clarify that Dr. Bonnie Henry has confirmed and encouraged childcare centers to remain open where possible, to serve families that are needing childcare. Parents who are able, or who do not have employment that falls within the definitions of “COVID-19 Essential Services” * are requested to care for children at home. Happy Campers will continue to follow all updated protocols and procedures as outlined by the Provincial & Island Health Authorities. Given these important requirements, it is imperative that we are resolute in our health & wellness policy, and that all parents are in agreement to the following **additional** requirements:

- ❖ Children may not attend Happy Campers Child Care programs if they exhibit any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever. From the onset of any such symptoms, children must remain at home for no less than 10 days unless cleared by a medical professional and accompanied with a doctor’s note.
- ❖ Children may not attend Happy Campers Child Care programs if any family member, or individual residing in their household has returned from any travel outside of Canada. In these instances, children must remain at home for no less than 14 days.
- ❖ Upon arrival at a Happy Campers facility, children must proceed immediately to a hand-washing station to complete a thorough handwashing accompanied by staff only (no parents please).
- ❖ No backpacks or belongings from home except lunch kits are permitted inside the centers. Nap time blankets & stuffies will continue to be kept in their cubbies & will be washed weekly.
- ❖ Out trips using HC busses will be minimized, with extra sanitization and will only go to outdoor areas as approved by the governing authorities.
- ❖ Increased frequency of cleaning and sanitization of all toys & equipment (at least twice a day).
- ❖ Parents should limit their time within the Happy Campers facility to only what is absolutely necessary and maintain social distancing (6’) from staff and other children. Please limit your drop off and pick up to the cubby room only.
- ❖ Individuals residing in the household with any child attending Happy Campers are to be taking all precautions possible to limit their exposure to COVID-19.
- ❖ Only registered clients may attend – no tours, drop ins or visits from outside agencies except VIHA.
- ❖ We ask that all parents familiarize themselves with the Provincial document summarizing COVID-19 facts as they pertain to the childcare environment. This can be found at the following link: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/covid-19/qa_covid19_childcare_settings_mar_24_2020.pdf

For the well-being of children, staff and families, open transparency and candor is required around all the above requirements. Although this may lead to some challenging conversations, Happy Campers staff and families need to acknowledge and respect their necessity and their intention of care during the pandemic. We sincerely appreciate your compliance and understanding!

*<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/essential-services-covid-19#non-health>