

## WELCOME TO VARSITY PRESCHOOL

[vcachild@telus.net](mailto:vcachild@telus.net)

[www.vcacalgary.com](http://www.vcacalgary.com)

403 247 1145 Ext. 2

Established in 1975 and continues to be one of the finest in the N.W.

PLEASE READ THIS PAGE BEFORE YOU REGISTER YOUR CHILD IN OUR PROGRAM



All children must be toilet trained when they start school. No pull ups or diapers are permitted. More details in this information sheet.

Important to know that there is a mandatory volunteer commitment. We must have a parent every day working in the class room. It usually works out to once every 4-6 weeks. More details in this information sheet.

What to look for in a Great Pre-School: A well-planned environment can prevent classroom conflicts. As you observe a class, note whether toys and art materials are age appropriate and within easy reach of the children, they should be able to act independently without constantly having to ask for teacher's help. Children should be gently guided to build self-control and confidence by creating a positive atmosphere of which they can explore and create within. Teachers should communicate, teach and model appropriate behaviour with plenty of positive reinforcement, praises and smiles.

Getting Ready for Pre-School: Remember, things that best prepare children for school success are the very things that are involved in family life such as going to post office, grocery store, setting the table for supper, etc. Please keep in mind that getting

a child ready for pre-school is an ongoing process. An experienced teacher expects to encounter certain challenges in a preschool resulting from normal behaviours for the particular developmental stage of a preschooler. Sitting for a group time, sharing a teacher's attention, waiting for a turn, and understanding what teacher's expect all take time to learn.

### **Features:**

- ✓ Excellent, qualified teachers.
- ✓ Low child/adult ratios with individual attention
- ✓ Reasonable rates
- ✓ Peanut free snacks and crafts
- ✓ Specialized music and movement programs
- ✓ Well-equipped classrooms with indoor gyms and outdoor playgrounds
- ✓ Plenty of creative, fun projects including arts, crafts and science.



### **Our Philosophy**

The following is the underlying philosophy of the Varsity Pre-School. Parents should consider and evaluate these ideas carefully before enrolling their children in the program, to ensure that their objectives coincide with those of the school.

We believe that a valuable part of learning occurs through unstructured play and within this atmosphere, a variety of art material, toys, and play centre (i.e. blocks, sand, water etc.) are presented to the children each day during supervised play periods. Children are

free to choose many of the activities they will engage in. As professionals, we promote the overall development of our children, including physical, social emotional and intellectual needs. We recognize that each child is an individual with distinct needs and interests, and endeavor to meet the needs of each of our children.

We stress that each child develops at his/her own rate; the program is not evaluative or peer comparative. Various aspects of their development may be facilitated, but there is no regimentation as far as learning is concerned. Group/circle time, music finger plays and choices of play activities and areas encourage development of language and attention span, as well as self-confidence, listening and social skills. VPS do not teach a child to read, write or do math, but it does aim to provide, through play, the pre-skills necessary for success in these areas.



**We want to emphasize that learning is fun through play.**

**The following is a further breakdown of our objectives:**

1. Development of socialization skills - This includes the beginning of sharing, taking turns, resolving conflicts, and gradual movement towards cooperative play.
2. Development of a positive attitude towards school. The overall program is designed to benefit the children, and it is meant to be fun. Building confidence is important in developing an understanding of appropriate group and individual behaviours.
3. Physical development (fine and gross motor co-ordination). Small and large muscle development will be aided respectively, through manipulating small objects (i.e. puzzles, beads, cutting, etc.) and during gym and playground times.

## Child Guidance Policy

We believe that discipline should be carried out in a positive and respectful manner. Present limits that are developmentally appropriate, reasonable, and clear for children. Any disciplinary action taken must be reasonable in the circumstances. Communicate, teach and model appropriate behavior so children see what it looks like. Notice and reinforce positive behavior often with praises. Ignore negative attention-seeking behavior as much as possible. Staff will at all times monitor and is aware of the events and activities within the classroom so they may provide positive redirection for inappropriate behavior. Any child disciplinary action taken is reasonable in the circumstances. We shall not inflict or cause to be inflicted any form of physical punishment, verbal or physical degradation or emotional deprivation. We shall not deny or threaten to deny any basic necessity, or the use of any form of physical restraint, confinement or isolation.



*Remind, Re-do, Redirect*  
*In a kind and caring way*

### Our program:

- ❖ The Varsity Preschool is a professionally managed, volunteer driven pre-school. Our "workforce" is comprised of four groups: teachers, part-time administrator, an accountant and our parents.
- ❖ We are owned and operated by the Varsity Community Centre which is a non-profit organization at 4303 Varsity Dr. N.W.
- ❖ We have available to us a two playgrounds outside weather permitting and a small gym indoors for large muscle activity.
- ❖ The daily program consist of the following basic structure:
  - ✚ Greeting circle.
  - ✚ Play/center/craft time.
  - ✚ Tidy up time.
  - ✚ Circle time/Story time.
  - ✚ Snack time.
  - ✚ Outdoor/Indoor play time.

✚ Goodbye circle/dismissal

✚ Music, field trip, special guests etc.

- ❖ Pre-School classes commence in September and run for 41 weeks, until mid-June.
- ❖ Dates of school holidays are determined by the Varsity Community Association. We close for two weeks at Christmas and one week for Spring Break.
- ❖ The preschool teacher selects professional days as they arise.
- ❖ Classes are all three/four year old grouping classes two, three or five days per week.
- ❖ Classes are 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours in length. Important to be on time for arrival and departure.
- ❖ Must turn three by the end of October of the school year the child is enrolled. Must turn four by the end of February of the school year enrolled.
- ❖ Children must be toilet trained to attend Varsity Pre-School. To be considered toilet trained, a child must be able to recognize the need to use the washroom and be able to inform the teacher, or use the washroom independently. Children who wear diapers (including pull-up) are not considered trained. The Pre-School recognizes that some children who are toilet trained at home can regress in the school environment. After two accidents, the teacher may take actions such as requesting the parent to remain in the building to assist the child. The teacher will work with the parents and child to overcome the set-back in training.
- ❖ Teachers are at liberty to send home a child with a severe cold or other illness. Varsity Pre-School follows Calgary Health Services guidelines regarding communicable disease and will notify all parents of the school of Calgary Health Service decisions. The Calgary Health Dept. advises that no child should return to Pre-school after a communicable disease without first consulting their physician. The teacher is required to send home any child that does not remain home for the time that was recommended.
- ❖ Due to the frequency and severity of peanut allergies in many of our children, the Varsity Pre-School does not allow peanuts or any kind of nuts. For some of our children, these allergies are life-threatening. There will be no peanuts, nuts, or peanut oil in our snack or craft program. Parents are requested not to bring in commercial cookies and baked good, because they may contain peanut oil. More information about appropriate snacks and other precautions will be provided prior to school starting.

### **Why are classes structured as three/four grouping classes?**

We offer three/four year old family grouping classes. We believe the learning style is based on how a family works together. Family members are different ages yet they all

learn from each other and work together all the time. A family models appropriate behaviours while helping those who are still learning. Age is not a factor. A family grouping class is a safe gentle place for children and adults to learn and help each other naturally

Our Pre-School is affiliated with the Cochrane Language and Learning Center which is a play based, developmentally appropriate program for children 2 ½ - 6 years of age with special needs. Program Unit Funding, Speech and Mild/Moderate funding is accessed from Alberta Education for those children who fit the funding criteria. A certified professional co-ordinates the child's program. Therapeutic services such as speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy and psychology are provided as required. Limited spaces are available for this program.

### **Our Fees:**

The Pre-school is owned and operated by the Varsity Community association and, to enroll the participating family must have a current Varsity Community membership (Sept 1<sup>st</sup> through to August 31<sup>st</sup>), which can be purchased at the time of registration.

At the time of the registration a deposit is required and the remaining fees can be paid over the school term. Arrangements must be made at the time of registration.

- ✓ The membership fee is nonrefundable and required to pay in September of the year you are enrolling.
- ✓ The registration fee is non-refundable, one per family.
- ✓ Activity fee covers extracurricular activities, such as field trips and visits by special guest etc. This fee is refundable and prorated if student gives notice withdrawal prior to Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> of the school year.
- ✓ Tuition is for 9 ½ months.

### **CANCELLATION POLICY:**

Thirty (30) days written notice to the Director, commencing August 1<sup>st</sup> of the enrolled school year is required before withdrawing a child from pre-school. Failure to give such notice will result in forfeiture of (1) month fees. If you give notice after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year you will forfeit one month's fee even though you gave Thirty (30) days written notice.)

## **Parent Volunteers**

**In order to meet the child/adult ratios set by Social Services, Varsity Preschool requires parent participation in the classroom for each child registered, as scheduled on a rotating basis by the Room Parent.**

**When it is your parent helper day no siblings are permitted to attend with you unless you have brought another adult with you.**

**To operate the Pre School class we must have a qualified teacher and a parent volunteer with no exceptions.**

**The parent helper needs to arrive 5 minutes early and must identify themselves to the teacher to let her know you are here. If the parent helper has not arrived you are unable to leave your child.**

**If nobody is able to volunteer in the class, the class must be cancelled and all the children must be taken home. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.**



# i AM IN PRESCHOOL

I am not built to  
sit still, keep my hands to myself,  
take turns, be patient, stand  
in line, or keep quiet all of  
the time.

I need: motion, novelty,  
adventure, and to  
engage the world with my whole body.

## LET ME PLAY!

(Trust me, I'm learning)

